MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 DECEMBER 1983

Kuwait Bombings

Damage, Casualties — The administrative building in front of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait "collapsed" when a truck loaded with explosives crashed through the embassy gate and exploded inside early on 12 December, KUNA announced. Fire broke out in the administrative and consular offices and there were casualties, the agency added, though they could not yet be identified, while AFP estimated that about 100 people were injured with that figure expected to rise. Almost simultaneous with the U.S. Embassy blast, a booby-trapped car parked near the control tower at Kuwait International Airport exploded, killing one person and injuring others, KUNA reported. The agency also reported that another booby-trapped car exploded in front of the French Embassy, wounding at least three. There were also bomb explosions at the Ash-Shu'aybah oil refinery, the electricity control center, and a residential compound in Al-Bida'.

In remarks reported by KUNA, the minister of state for Cabinet affairs placed the total casualty figure from the bombs at 2 dead and 54 injured. He reported that the Kuwaiti Cabinet went into emergency session to discuss the blasts and that a number of suspects were arrested. WAKH reported that a seventh bomb was discovered outside the government passport office before it could go off and was removed and safely exploded.

Responsibility Claim — The Islamic Jihad Organization, which also claimed responsibility for suicide bombings of the U.S. and French contingents of the Multinational Force in Beirut, claimed responsibility for the blasts in an anonymous telephone call to the AFP office in Beirut. The caller also claimed there was a seventh bomb which had not yet exploded at the time of the call, the agency added.

PLO Affairs

The Israeli Navy shelled the port and other areas of Tripoli on the night of 9-10 December and forces loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned the fire, according to a PLO communique reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. Israeli military sources denied that the Israeli Navy had again bombarded 'Arafat's positions in Tripoli, Jerusalem radio reported. Commenting on the Israeli action against a loyalist position near the port the previous morning, military experts cited by Jerusalem television dismissed PLO claims that the Israelis had made a landing attempt but stressed that the attack was intended to make it clear that Israel opposes the evacuation of 'Arafat and his forces by sea, "not only with words and phrases." Whoever decides to send ships to evacuate them should take into consideration the "active Israeli presence" in the area, the experts said, although this does not mean Israel will use force to prevent the evacuation. As for speculation that ships escorting the Palestinians from Tripoli might be attacked, an Israeli source said the French Government has no need to even consider such an "unlikely possibility," Jerusalem radio reported.

A Palestinian source cited by KUNA on 12 December said France informed 'Arafat that it is still committed to protecting the evacuation, which is expected to begin 15 December with 'Arafat and some of his forces sailing for Tunisia. The Italian foreign minister announced earlier that Italy is willing to provide a ship to evacuate wounded Palestinians but must still consider the request to supply a warship to escort the evacuees, ANSA reported. Meanwhile, the Greece asked the four governments of the Multinational Force in Lebanon to provide security guarantees for Greek ships, according to an official statement broadcast by Athens radio.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that the United States has held secret contacts with Syria to facilitate the evacuation of the Palestinians overland through Syria. In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, however, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan said the Syrians have not responded to the PLO's request that Syria allow a Palestinian withdrawal overland and he opined that they are unlikely to assent to this demand. The PLO has also asked Syria to provide air cover for 'Arafat's forces as they gather at Tripoli port prior to departing by sea, according to reports by AFP and MENA. Meanwhile, 'Arafat told members of Tripoli's Higher Coordination Committee that the departure plan will be implemented after the formation of a Lebanese security force to ensure the safety of the evacuees and after an exchange of prisoners between the Palestinian loyalists and dissidents, MENA reported.

The Voice of the Palestinian Revolution radio broadcasting from Turbul remained unheard over the weekend. The Lebanese weekly *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI* reported that PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril has taken over the dissident leadership from Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha, according to MENA.

Lebanon

Political Developments — Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met with presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld on 9 December and discussed the situation in Lebanon, particularly in and around Tripoli, Beirut radio reported. Al-Wazzan informed Rumsfeld of his "astonishment over and rejection of" Israel's opposition to the plan to evacuate the Palestinians from Tripoli and conveyed "Lebanon's protest" over the 9 December "Israeli aggression" near the city.

Foreign Minister Elie Salim visited Saudi Arabia 9-11 December todiscuss the results of President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to the United States and the current Lebanese situation with King Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, SPA revealed. Before going to Saudi Arabia, Salim had discussed the same issues with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, and former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami,

according to Damascus radio. Following his Damascus meeting with Salim, Karami announced that he would boycott any resumption of the Geneva-based Lebanese national reconciliation talks, KUNA reported, because of the results of the president's visit to Washington.

Al-Musawi Interview — In an interview with the London-based *AL-MAJALLAH*, Islamic Amal leader Husayn al-Musawi warned "the French and the Atlantic alliance people" that the "confrontation" against the U.S., French, Israeli, and other forces will continue, but will not use the same "fighting methods." "The war against those people," he stated, "will be of a new and special kind." Al-Musawi reaffirmed his position that the Islamic Amal had nothing to do with the recent bombings of the U.S. and French headquarters in Beirut and that of the Israelis in Tyre.

Security Situation — An Italian soldier was wounded by a stray bullet on 11 December in Beirut, where exchanges of shell fire and clashes continued around Lebanese Army positions throughout the weekend of 9-11 December, according to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. Meanwhile, Army positions in the mountain area, including Suq al-Gharb, came under fire throughout the weekend, Beirut radio stated, adding that Army positions in the Khaldah and 'Aramun regions also came under all types of fire on 11 December. In the south, one IDF soldier was killed by a bomb explosion while on patrol in Sidon on 11 December, according to Jerusalem radio, while an Israeli patrol in Kafr Milki was confronted by local residents but escaped by firing into the air, Beirut and Jerusalem radios noted.

Syria

A military spokesman cited by Damascus radio reported that Syrian air defenses shot down an Israeli plane overflying Syrian territory southwest of Tartus on 9 December. The radio also said that Syrian air defenses in Lebanon hit one plane when they opened fire on an Israeli formation. Israeli military sources cited by Jerusalem radio denied both of these claims "out of hand."

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA "categorically denied" an Iraqi claim that six Iranian "naval targets" had been destroyed by the Iraqi Air Force and Navy, stating that in reality Iraqi forces had attacked two Cypriot and Greek vessels but Iranian naval and air forces had defended the ships and "aborted" the attack. The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* asserted that Iraq will "continue to destroy" ships that ignore its warnings "regardless of their nationality or the flag they carry" and reaffirmed the Iraqi position that all ships ignoring Iraqi warnings will be targeted for destruction "from the moment they enter the exclusion zone," INA reported.

Geneva OPEC Meeting

The Geneva OPEC meeting concluded on 9 December and released a communique, transmitted by OPECNA, confirming earlier reports that the conferees had agreed to adhere to the existing production quotas and price ceilings established at the March 1983 meeting in London. The conference also deferred discussion on the appointment of a secretary general to a later date pending further consultations.

Regarding the conference's failure to adopt the Iranian proposal that the marker price be raised to $34 per barrel, in remarks reported by Tehran radio, Iranian Petroleum Minister Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi asserted that no one at the conference was prepared to oppose the price increase and that in fact most wanted it but would not support it. He maintained that Iran did manage to "justify" the existence of a work committee to investigate the issue, which hopefully will make the OPEC members accept the price rise. Gharazi insisted on Iran's "right" to the secretary general position, adding that his country will not give it up or "allow this matter to be in the hands of others."

North African Affairs

Libya — JANA reacted to Secretary of State Shultz' 9 December announcement of a ban on all U.S. exports to Libya by stating that this move affirms "the aggressive nature of the U.S. Administration based on hegemony and the use of force" and characterizing the U.S. charges that Libya supports terrorism as "false allegations."

Tunisia — President Habib Bourguiba, Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, and Foreign Minister Benji Caid es-Sebsi each met with the secretary of state on 10 December, Tunis radio stated. Es-Sebsi stressed that the United States must take a more balanced stance between Israel and the Arabs, the radio added. High-level diplomatic sources told KUNA that Mzali's talks with Shultz were "distinguished by Mzali's complete frankness and bitter criticism of American policy in the Middle East." Mzali leveled bitter criticism at the U.S.-Israeli "strategic agreement" and the "fact" that U.S. forces in Lebanon are "helping one group against another instead of being neutral," the sources stated.

Algeria — Soviet First Deputy Defense Minister Nikolay Ogarkov ended his visit to Algeria on 10 December after having met with several leaders including President Ahmed Abdelghani and Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, TASS and Algiers radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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PLO Communique on Israeli Attack on Tripoli

JN091636 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Military communique issued by general command of Palestinian revolution forces on 9 December 1983]

[Text] At 0300 today Zionist naval forces attacked our positions in the Al-Mina' and Tripoli areas. A Zionist warship, five torpedo boats, and several fighter planes and helicopters participated in the attack. The warship began shelling our positions with its guns and rockets. At the same time, the other boats approached the coast in an attempt to carry out a landing, backed by fighter planes and helicopters.

Our forces confronted the attacking force and compelled it to retreat further into the sea. One of our heroic brothers was martyred and three others were wounded in this attack. The Zionist naval ships and helicopters were still off the coast when this communique was prepared.

This large-scale Zionist attack on our forces in Tripoli has taken place at a time when the forces of the Syrian and Libyan regimes and their agents are still besieging the positions of the revolution forces in northern Lebanon and shelling the city of Tripoli. The Syrian regime still insists on the withdrawal of our forces from Tripoli.

Brother Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman has declared that the Israeli Navy has mounted a naval siege of Tripoli to prevent our forces from leaving the city by sea. Brother 'Abd ar-Rahman added that the siege makes the withdrawal of our forces from Tripoli doubtful. He affirmed that today's Zionist attack is a prelude to a major Zionist offensive whose dimensions are not yet clear.

10 December Action

JN101707 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The following military communique was issued by the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command:

The Zionist Air Force has been unceasingly flying over the city of Tripoli. Meanwhile, a Zionist destroyer, a helicopter carrier, and a number of boats have taken positions in the sea opposite the city of Tripoli. Zionist planes keep roaming the area off the Tripoli coast.

Yesterday evening, two Zionist boats approached the port and began shelling it with rockets and heavy machine guns. Our forces engaged the two boats. At that point, the Zionist destroyer opened fire on the port area and its surroundings. Our artillery and rockets engaged the destroyer and the boats. The clash lasted for 2 hours and stopped at midnight but resumed at 0300 today. Zionist warships used rockets and heavy machine guns to carry out intensive shelling in the direction of the port, Az-Zahiriyah, Al-Mallulah, and Basatin quarters of Tripoli. Our forces have been dealing with these warships.

'Arafat Receives Karami Message on Departure Plan

NC102111 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 10 Dec (MENA) — Yasir 'Arafat has received the members of the political committee stemming from the Higher Coordination Committee in northern Lebanon, who delivered a written message addressed to him from Chairman of the Higher Coordination Committee Rashid Karami, who is now in Damascus. The message answers the queries that 'Arafat had raised concerning the safe departure of his fighters to Tunis and the YAR.

Following the 1-hour meeting, committee sources said that the meeting was extremely positive and that 'Arafat told them that he has no objection to leaving Tripoli along with his fighters now that all the guarantees he had demanded are in hand. The sources quoted 'Arafat as saying that the departure plan will be implemented immediately after a force is formed that will ensure the safety of the fighters departing from Tripoli and take over all his proponents' positions.

The committee sources added that 'Arafat said that the departure process will begin 48 hours after the formation of this force, which will consist of the Lebanese Internal Security elements. He said that the exchange of prisoners between his men and the dissidents will take place 48 hours before the implementation of the departure plan.

'Arafat To Honor Agreement

LD100750 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 Dec (KUNA) — It was claimed here today that the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Israeli attack against his besieged forces in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, will not stop him from sailing with his fighters away from Lebanon to implement the Saudi-Syrian agreement. Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'* said that it contacted Mr 'Arafat after the Israeli attack against a base of his forces yesterday at dawn. It asked him about the possibility of his departure by sea in light of the new circumstances and claimed that he said in reply to this question: "Our arrangements remain as they were; there is no change in them. What happened does not terrify us."

Mr 'Arafat called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, whom he accuses of supporting the forces opposing him within Fatah who are attacking him, to turn a new leaf to confront the Israeli attacks. He said: "I hope they will listen to what I say. We are not in this trench to defend ourselves, but to defend our Arab nation against this tyranny and against the enemies of the nation, and we will continue to face up to this danger."

Israeli 'Siege' Delays Departure

JN111714 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] A PLO spokesman has affirmed that the delay in starting the evacuation of the Palestinian forces from Tripoli is not caused

by the PLO but by the Israeli siege. This action forced Greece to ask the countries participating in the Multinational Force in Lebanon to provide security guarantees to protect and accompany the Greek ships that will transport the Palestinian forces from Tripoli.

'Arafat Spokesman on Air Cover

NC111734 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 11 Dec 83

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Tripoli, North Lebanon, Dec 11 (AFP) — Troops loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat want "concrete guarantees" of protection from possible Israeli air attacks during their evacuation from Tripoli, a PLO spokesman said here today. "We want concrete guarantees, above all for the regrouping of our forces before the embarcation, because at that moment they will be concentrated in one place and will be very vulnerable", spokesman for Mr 'Arafat Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman said.

"At this moment the Israelis are maintaining a kind of maritime blockade of Tripoli because, in my opinion, they are preparing a special operation against the PLO in Tripoli", Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said. "This blockade, which is delaying our retreat, is giving them the chance to carry out that operation".

He called on Syria and Saudi Arabia, as guarantors of the November 25 agreement which halted fighting between Mr 'Arafat's supporters and Syrian-backed Palestinian dissidents around Tripoli, to "take responsibility for the skies" when the men were gathered at the port.

Israeli forces bombarded PLO positions in Tripoli Friday, and Israel has so far refused to guarantee the safety of Mr 'Arafat and his men for the evacuation by Greek ships flying the U.N. flag.

Confirming for the first time that 4,000 PLO troops would be involved in the evacuation, Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said negotiations had been completed at a local level for the evacuation, but it could not go ahead because of the Israeli blockade. These local negotiations chiefly involved the Lebanese police, who are to act as a buffer between the dissident and loyalist forces during the embarcation.

Mr 'Arafat's troops continued to observe the November 25 ceasire, Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said, but were under continuous sniper and artillery fire from the Syrian-controlled sector. "If they (the Syrians) want to start bombarding Tripoli again along with the Israeli blockade, it's up to them — we will defend ourselves" he added.

Exit Expected by 15 Dec

LD120954 Kuwait KUNA in English 0945 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, Dec 12 (KUNA) — A prominent Palestinian source expected here Monday that the Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will leave Tripoli, north Lebanon on Thursday. The source, who wished to remain anonymous told KUNA that the French authorities have informed PLO chief diplomat Faruq Qaddumi that they were still committed to protection of the four Greek ships which will carry 'Arafat and his loyalist forces from the besieged north Lebanese port city.

Qaddumi arrived here from Paris after a two-day visit.

The official did not rule out the possibility of French-American coordination on the departure of the PLO chairman and his fighters from north Lebanon.

'Arafat and a portion of his forces will head for Tunisia while the rest will be distributed in Algeria, North Yemen and possibly Jordan, "at a later stage," the source noted.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources here expressed a belief that the Israeli naval blockade of Tripoli and its shelling of Palestinian positions there aims at tightening the grip on 'Arafat to enforce surrendering demands via a third party in return for a safe passage out of Tripoli. The sources added that the surrendering demands were topped by speeding up renewal of dialogue with King Husayn of Jordan on activating the "Jordanian option" for the settlement of the Middle East crisis. The option stipulates assigning the Jordanian monarch to negotiate with the American and Israeli authorities on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

'Arafat, Husayn To Discuss Confederation

LD112321 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1928 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, Dec 11 (PETRA) — Mr. Yasir 'Arafat lauded H.M. King Husayn's stands and courage towards the Palestine question. In a one-hour television programme on the French TV, 'Arafat expressed his appreciation of King Husayn's daring stand towards the people of Palestine during the assault on the PLO in north Lebanon. 'Arafat added that Jordan has a positive role to play in the solution to the Palestine question and for the reinstitution of the legitimate Palestinian rights.

I am looking forward, said 'Arafat, to meeting with H.M. King Husayn to resume the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. We must do our best to reach an agreement on a confederation between Jordan and Palestine in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Assembly.

Fatah Reportedly To Pardon Dissidents

JN110835 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Dec 83 pp 1, 21

[Text] Tunis — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* has learned that before the convening of the Fatah fifth general congress next month, the Fatah Central Committee will adopt a brave decsiion.

This decision will include an amnesty for all elements involved in the Fatah dissidence, giving them freedom to return to the Fatah ranks or remain outside the movement.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B has also learned that the recent attempts by the opposition movement under Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] and his comrades to begin an unconditional dialogue with the Fatah Central Committee were rejected by the Executive Committee because of the opposition movement's past rejection of all mediation and calls to begin a dialogue with the Central Committee and its resort to military means to seize Fatah's institutions, which greatly harmed the PLO's reputation.

Al-Wazir Interviewed on Withdrawal Preparations

JN091915 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1737 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces — identified here by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad — by Radio Monte Carlo announcer Antoine Abu Samra in the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — live or recorded]

[Text] [Abu Samra] The situation in Tripoli after the Israeli raid on the entrance of the capital of the north was the main topic today in the newspapers and the radios. Abu Jihad, what is the situation now?

[Al-Wazir] The situation has been calm for some time. But last night the Syrians unfortunately shelled the port area, and, at about 0200 today, the Israelis attacked. An Israeli warship and four gunboats opened up artillery fire from the sea. Three Israeli helicopters followed up the shelling in an attempt to attack bases in the area. There were losses among the civilians. This Israeli raid, which follows continuous threats by Shamir, Sharon, and others, is part of the Israeli plan. Israel considers itself in continuous war with the Palestinian revolution everywhere and at all times. We expected this attack after the series of threatening statements, especially in connection with our withdrawal.

Of course, the Israeli activities will not stop. We expect the Israelis to repeat the same thing tonight. This is because the Israeli Air Force is still active. This is a well-known fact and is always expected from our Israeli enemy.

[Abu Samra] Abu Jihad, what is the purpose of these Israeli raids. Is it true that Israeli planes circled over Tripoli today?

[Al-Wazir] Yes, after the morning attack and at noon today Israeli planes continued to circle over the area. We concluded from the intensive air activity that this is a prelude to more attacks. Of course, the Israeli enemy's operations are part of its continuous war against the Palestinian revolution. We are in a continuous conflict with the enemy. Moreover, the Israeli enemy is telling the Israeli public that it is retaliating for the heroic operations which have been carried out in Jerusalem and those which took place yesterday in Gaza and Nabulus, and also those which are taking place in Sidon, Tyre, and Al-'Abidiyah.

[Abu Samra] Abu Jihad, do you expect Israel to carry out air raids on Tripoli as was the case in 1982 in Beirut?

[Al-Wazir] This is not a remote possibility and cannot be ruled out, especially when the Israeli leadership has terrorists like Shamir and the Likud group, which is dominating Israeli policy, and enjoys continuous U.S. encouragement through the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement. Our enemy has also become more arrogant due to the current split in the Arab world and the continuous conflicts, especially among those who are supposed to be in the same trench, as in the conflict between the Palestinian revolution and Syria. Syria is attacking the PLO and the Palestinian revolution. This is the kind of atmosphere which encourages the enemy to strike at the Arabs one by one; first at Syria and the Syrian Army and then at the Palestinian revolution and its forces. This is to be expected. We must not forget that the enemy is always lying in wait for us.

[Abu Samra] Abu Jihad, have you obtained Moscow's reaction to the Israeli raid and the Israeli threats and to you expect a positive Soviet response?

[Al-Wazir] There has been no response so far to this issue. At any rate, the situation is very clear. They of course condemn Israeli actions and threats. As regards the USSR's ability in this regard and the extent to which it can go in announcing its stand, it will announce the stand expected in this regard.

[Abu Samra] It has been observed that the Greek ships which were to proceed to Tripoli have been delayed. Is this delay due to the Israeli threats or to something else?

[Al-Wazir] No, actually it has nothing to do with the Israeli threats. The Greek ships are to proceed after the conclusion of the contacts which we are now holding. We have set the time when the ships will come. They are now awaiting orders from the revolution's leadership to move to the set place. But the main reason is that some measures here have not yet been accomplished by the Coordination Committee, especially those concerning the forces which will separate the combatants and ensure the safety of the withdrawal. We were to be informed tonight of the commander of the force which will undertake this task. We also expected Rashid Karami to arrive and discuss the procedures with this commander. Once we have agreed on all these things, the ships will be ready to move. They are waiting for the signal from us. Once we have accomplished the measures here, we will immediately give them the order to move. They will then come and we will proceed with the program. There are no obstacles in the contacts and preparations outside. The obstacles are here. They are not obstacles really, but procedures which must be accomplished. These procedures will be accomplished in the next 48 hours and we will then take the next step concerning the movement of the ships.

[Abu Samra] Abu Jihad, the details concerning the plan are still somewhat ambiguous. The problems and procedures you are talking about are, as you said, the observers who will arrive in Tripoli. What is the nationality of these observers?

[Al-Wazir] All this will be within the framework of the Syrian-Saudi agreement which was withnessed by Brothers Abu Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] and Abu Shakir [Rafiq an-Natshah] on behalf of the PLO. It was agreed first that there would be a group of Arab or Saudi observers with their own forces to guarantee protection and the safety of withdrawal. But Syria rejected the use of Arab observers and forces. Therefore, Rashid Karami came up with the idea that the Lebanese Internal Security Forces should undertake this task. We agreed to this and asked him to take action immediately. We are now awaiting the appointment of the commander of the Lebanese security force which, along with other Lebanese forces, will undertake the task of separating the combatants and guaranteeing the safety of the withdrawal.

[Abu Samra] Abu Jihad, it was said that there are two problems: the problem of the fighters who arrived in Tripoli from Al-Biqa' [as heard]. You insist on their return to Al-Biqa'. Has this problem been solved?

[Al-Wazir] To be frank, let us say that there is a basic Syrian decsion demanding the departure of the Palestinion revolution forces from Lebanese territory, after it requested that from Syrian territory. Syria — I mean the Syrian regime — completely rejects the continued presence of any of our fighters in Al-Biqa'. What was in the agreement was not carried out. We do not see any way of carrying it out through the higher implementation committee [as heard]. Therefore, after the rejection of [words indistinct] in Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps and after the rejection of the principle of the withdrawal of the other side and the surrounding Syrian forces to more distant positions, we said: If this is the decision, then we have another measure: The fighters who were in Al-Biqa' will also leave with us, after they have been removed from Al-Biqa' through a Syrian move and decision.

[Abu Samra] If Israel continues its siege of Tripoli, is there any other way for your withdrawal from Tripoli other than by sea? Can you, for instance, go through Syria and leave via Syrian airports?

[Al-Wazir] Of course, the Syrian position is clear here. Syria is itself mounting a siege on the land and even in the sea. Just before the Israeli agreesion and the arrival of the Israeli warships and gunboats, the Syrians were shelling the port area and any boat or ship approaching the port. Unfortunately, the Israeli siege on the sea is paralleled by a Syrian siege on the land. Nevertheless, we say that despite all these circumstances, we are following up on the withdrawal procedures. We are discussing these matters with certain international sides, especially within the UN framework, to ensure all guarantees for the safety of the ships. Of course, this situation wrenches the hearts of all Arab and Palestinian strugglers, when they see our own brothers stabbing us in the back and when the see the Syrians rejecting any idea other than the departure of the Palestinian forces from Lebanese territory.

[Abu Samra] Abu Jihad, yesterday you made an appeal which you concluded by accusing the Arab states of continuous injustice. Do you consider all the Arab states in the same way, or are there exceptions?

[Al-Wazir] There is a basic fact. We appreciate the efforts our Arab nation and leaders exerted in our support, but the general Arab attitude toward the injustice which the Palestinian revolution has suffered at the hands of our brothers in Syria and the Syrian leadership and decisionmaking was characterized by silence. This was not the kind of attitude expected by the sons of the Palestinian revolution from the Arab leaders everywhere. True, some efforts have been exerted. True, there is the Saudi-Syrian agreement and the effects which have been exerted to this end. True also, there were other Arab efforts. Still, we, as strugglers, say that Arab action from all sides of our Arab nation was very slow and was not responsive to the events and the responsibility which called for different action and behavior, an action asserting the real weight of our Arab nation and the leaders of this nation everywhere.

[Abu Samra] Abu Jihad, a short while ago Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that Rashid Karami will arrive in Tripoli today and possibly tonight. Do you have any information on this subject?

[Al-Wazir] Correct, we are expecting him, because he told us yesterday that he would be coming here to consider the measures concerning the Lebanese Internal Security Forces. We are awaiting his arrival. He might arrive tonight or tomorrow. Upon his arrival we will agree on the final procedures concerning the departure. After that, we will implement our measures.

[Abu Samra] If everything proceeds as expected, when do you believe that departure will take place?

[Al-Wazir] If matters proceeds normally, the departure will take place at the beginning or middle of next week.

[Abu Samra] When you leave Tripoli, will it be the Palestinian fighters only, or also some of the Lebanese who fought on your side, especially members of the Islamic Unification Movement?

[Al-Wazir] Of course, we appreciate the nationalist stand adopted by our brothers in Tripoli and by the sons of the Lebanese people in general. Our brothers in Tripoli have, in particular, adopted a courageous historic stand by their sacrifices, cooperation, support, and protection of the Palestinian resistance. This stand by Tripoli will never be forgotten. But this is their country. They understand their own circumstances. They have their own reasons. They also have the rights of citizenship in this country. None of these brothers will leave with us. The departure will be by the Palestinian forces according to Syrian request and decision.

[Abu Samra] Do those who fought on your side not fear revenge after your departure from Tripoli?

[Al-Wazir] We have held long discussions on the subject of protecting these people. Karami and the Higher Coordination Committee discussed this subject in detail. They said that these are citizens and that nothing will happen to them.

Al-Hasan on Departure, Future of Movement

JN092046 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1803 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Antoine Abu Samra carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — live or recorded]

[Text] [Abu Samra] Brother Khalid al-Hasan, 'Arafat and his loyal forces were expected to begin evacuating Tripoli today, but yesterday evening Israeli Prime Minister Shamir said that he was studying means to prevent 'Arafat from leaving Tripoli. Were you surprised by this Israeli attitude, and were you expecting such an obstacle during the Damascus talks?

[Al-Hasan] First of all, today was not the day scheduled for 'Arafat's departure. The date for the departure of 'Arafat and the Palestinian forces is still secret for security reasons. Second, I am never surprised by the Israeli attitude because wiping out the PLO and the Fatah movement and even physically eliminating the Palestinian strugglers is a declared Zionist political objective that is repeated continuously. Consequently, this objective is always taken into consideration in any behavior. Concerning the brothers in Syria, we have asked for the Palestinian forces' withdrawal through Syrian territory but we have not received a response to this request, although this would make the withdrawal easier, quicker, safer, and less costly.

[Abu Samra] Thus, the Damascus agreement does not anticipate the fighters' departure through Syrian territory?

[Al-Hasan] Never.

[Abu Samra] Will this position be reconsidered in view of the new developments?

[Al-Hasan] This subject will be decided by the brothers in Syria because they are the party concerned in this regard. I Hope they will approve it, but I do not foresee any possibility of such a thing happening.

[Abu Samra] What do you think will happen?

[Al-Hasan] Out of our awareness of the security requirements and the hostile Zionist intentions against everything that is Palestinian, we held advance contacts on the international level with the United Nations and the Security Council. A decision has been adopted stipulating that the ships which are going to carry the brother strugglers shall fly the UN flag, and consequently, shall be under UN protection. This is in regard to the morale and international political aspect. Also, we held contacts with several Arab countries and superpowers, including France, Italy, and the USSR, concerning the physical protection of the ships during their passage in dangerous areas. I believe that all the measures are proceeding satisfactorily and the strugglers will finally arrive at their destinations.

[Abu Samra] What information do you have about the Greek ships which were scheduled to arrive in the Lebanese territorial waters today to transport the fighters?

[Al-Hasan] These ships will arrive at the time scheduled, which has not been announced. The dates mentioned were only predictions. The ships will finally arrive, if not today, tomorrow, or the day after. They will arrive eventually.

[Abu Samra] The new Israeli stand is related to the bus explosion. Why did the PLO claim responsibility for this incident?

[Al-Hasan] In fact, the PLO did not claim responsibility. It was Fatah elements inside the occupied territories with our people there who were responsible for the bus explosion. Naturally every military communique that is issued for each operation refers to its link with the Palestinian revolution as long as such operations are linked with the revolution. Whether the Palestinian command declares responsibility for such an operation or not, the operation is a Palestinian one. Consequently, those who are leading the Palestinian struggle are known.

[Abu Samra] Do you believe that the new crisis which Israel has aroused can fade out?

[Al-Hasan] If you mean Israel's interception of the ships carrying the fighters, I believe that there will be measures so that the Zionist enemy will not be able to carry out any hostile action. There will be other talk if such action takes place.

[Abu Samra] Consequently, you are confirming that 'Arafat will leave Tripoli?

[Al-Hasan] Undoubtedly, 'Arafat will leave Tripoli because he must be freed from being a hostage, since there are roles for him to play outside Tripoli which require his personal presence outside the city in order to be able to continue performing his duties of struggle, especially in reactivating work in the PLO's legitimate institutions.

[Abu Samra] Let us suppose the crisis with Israel has been removed. Some difficulties will remain. What will the postiion be on the 1,000 fighters who were in Al-Biqa' and later went to Tripoli? Where will these fighters go? Will they return to Al-Biqa'?

[Al-Hasan] They will depart Tripoli. This is very clear. We do not want any more bloodshed. The return of these people to Al-Biqa' would renew the friction and hostilities. Everyone realizes at this stage that there must be an end to Palestinian bloodshed. We must not give anyone the opportunity to spill more Palestinian blood under the slogan of reform or counterrevolution. Therefore, it was decided that these fighters would depart with the other strugglers.

[Abu Samra] Therefore, there is no return to Al-Biqa', but what will the position of the dissident fighters in the camps be? Does the agreement provide for their departure, and will they leave?

[Al-Hasan] The putschists will leave. They will return to where they came from as forces. But they will have some presence in the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, although I believe such a presence is illogical, because the situation should return to what it was before, where representative popular committees ran the affairs of the camps and the Palestinian Armed Struggle

Command [PLO military police] maintained internal peace and order. This would have been the normal situation, if there had been good intentions. At any rate, we did not succeed on this matter for obvious reasons. But we are confident of our people. We are confident that the Palestinian masses in the camps will adjust to their new circumstances, while preserving independent Palestinian decisionmaking and rejecting any form of containment even with a Palestinian cover.

[Abu Samra] If matters continue as they are, that is, with the Israeli seige on Tripoli, would there be no fear of a renewal of hostilities between Fatah loyalists and dissidents?

[Al-Hasan] The Saudi-Syrian agreement reached in Damascus some 10 days ago and in which I participated is a guarantee against the renewal of hostilities if our Palestinian brothers are unable to leave. But I believe they will leave.

[Abu Samra] The fighting between the loyalists and dissidents has resulted in many losses. Do you have an idea about the number of dead?

[Al-Hasan] I personally do not know the precise number of Palestinians and Lebanese killed. But the dissidents said in a discussion on Syrian television that Abu 'Ammar's communiques exaggerated the number of Palestinians killed. This is a real cause of sorrow. The question is not the number of killed, whether 100, 200, 500, or 1,000, but the crime of one Palestinian taking up arms against another; the belief by one Palestinian that he can, with outside support, open fire on his own comrades-in-arms instead of on the enemy.

[Abu Samra] Let us go back to the Damascus agreement. Many sides, especially Saudi Arabia, have participated in this agreement. Can you sum up for our listeners the phases of this agreement right from the beginning.

[Al-Hasan] Actually, the phases began a few months ago when we became certain that a military confrontation was inevitable. We knew that the putschists, who were unable to depend on their own strength, would seek allies whether from inside or outside the Palestinian arena, especially in light of Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's continuous and open support for the new putschist movement and his call on everyone to join it. Thus we began our contacts with our brothers in the Arab world to prevent the confrontation. Everyone exerted commendable efforts, including Algeria, the PDRY, the YAR, Kuwait, the Gulf states, the Arab League secretary general, and the ICO secretary general. We requested every Arab side to intervene to prevent such a confrontation, because we were aware of its possible political, psychological, and material effects. Unfortunately, no one was able to prevent the fighting. I remember that the last attempt to stop the fighting was when Saudi Arabia succeeded in arranging a meeting between Fatah and President Hafiz al-Asad. I went to Damascus for this meeting. I had hoped that the results of that meeting would prevent an armed clash. Unfortunately, this hope was not achieved and the situation erupted.

From this premise, it was inevitable to devote one's attention to halting the fighting. Saudi Arabia resumed its efforts and it is to be thanked for this.

Of course, in all stages the USSR used to exert its efforts to prevent the fighting but it did not succeed. This continued until matters reached the level of military action in the refugee camps. It then became inevitable to increase the pressure and intensify the contacts until Brother Sa'ud al-Faysal paid his recent visit to Damascus and met with his colleague 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Afterward I attended the meeting and 3 arduous days passed before we reached the agreement which was concluded between Saudi Arabia and Syria, an agreement which contained principles, as I have previously explained. The first principle is the need to stop the fighting in a firm and permanent manner, and the two countries pledged to carry this out. The second principle is the preservation of PLO unity. The third principle is the settlement of Palestinian differences through dialogue and peaceful means, that is, by not resorting to arms for settling any differences.

Concerning the question of implementation, the agreement stipulated the departure of all the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli and the areas surrounding it. There was an insistence that the expression of areas surrounding Tripoli must not include Al-Baddawi and Al-Barid refugee camps in terms of a general control despite the fact the fighters will have to withdraw from the two camps to where they came from.

[Abu Samra] Brother Khalid, what about the post-Tripoli stage if matters proceed as originally scheduled?

[Al-Hasan] There is no doubt that the departure from Tripoli is a very painful thing and may lead to great disappointment, as it will be a departure resulting from an Arab stand and not as a result of a Zionist aggression as was the case in Beirut. I, however, would like to stress that any exaggeration of the negative results of this departure would be a mistake. One cannot exaggerate such matters because Tripoli is not the last Arab city and because Tripoli is not on the borders with the Zionist enemy. There is no difference between Tripoli and Tartus, for example, particularly now that the Arab military option has collapsed and no one is speaking any more of military confrontation, even in the media. From this premise, the current stage lacks the military and militant atmosphere which prevailed in the previous militant stage.

We are on the threshold of a new stage. The Palestinian armed struggle must be reorganized in a manner that will conform to this stage because many of the methods of armed struggle must be changed now while maintaining the continuation of this struggle. One also must grasp this opportunity to rebuild the Palestinian identity, whether in the PLO or in Fatah, so that it can confront the new difficulties which the future will produce and during which we will face Zionist aggressions in light of the current Arab confusion and division. One also must exert efforts to convene the Arab summit conference, whether this summit convenes by a unanimous or by a majority decision. It is not permissible for unanimity to obstruct what the majority decides. Until a clear Arab stand emerges that will define the Palestinian-Arab relationship within its militant context, I will continue to be one of those who believes that conspiracies against the Palestinian revolution are taking place because it represents the sound political course. The moment that conspiracies against us stop, we must reasses our calculations and say: What mistakes have we committed to make the conspiracies against us stop?

This is the fate of the revolution and the fate of the leaders of revolutions. This is also the fate of the Palestinian people, who shoulder the burden of humanity and the Arab nation by their confrontation of the Zionist threat. Perhaps future circumstances will make us more capable of integrating the requirements of the new stage and restoring an Arab stand that will be capable of confronting the new stage in a manner that will keep the file of the Palestinian struggle open and will maintain the struggle in an effective manner for regaining the usurped national rights.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Said To Replace Muragha

NC101447 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 10 Dec (MENA) — The Lebanese weekly *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI* says today that there has been a change in the Palestinian dissidents' leadership. Ahmad Jibril [PFLP-GC leader] has assumed the leadership of the dissidents from Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] as well as the leadership of the campaign against 'Arafat supporters following developments in Tripoli. Quoting Palestinian sources, the magazine says among these developments was the demonstration staged by Palestinian women in the Nahr al-Barid camp and their attack on Abu Musa, who was compelled to leave the camp with his companions. The magazine adds that another development was the demonstration staged by the inhabitants of the Al-Baddawi camp against the dissidents. During this demonstration a clash occurred in which a number of people were killed.

The magazine further says that there were also developments in the situation within the ranks of the dissidents under Abu Musa's leadership in the wake of the fearful events that have taken place in the city of Tripoli and that these developments were in 'Arafat's favor.

Several Soldiers Wounded in Jerusalem Explosion

JN111742 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The activities of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are continuing despite the enemy's security measures and precautions.

A group of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland set off a timed explosive charge at one of the enemy's military troop concentrations in Jerusalem, wounding several enemy soldiers. A Zionist police spokesman admitted this operation and said, as usual, that the explosion did not result in any damage or victims. However, he said that his forces carried out an extensive arrest campaign among Palestinian citizens in order to search for the perpetrators, who returned safely to base.

OPEC Conference Issues Final Communique

LD091548 Vienna OPECNA in English 1450 GMT 9 Dec 83

[OPECNA special transmission]

[Text] Geneva, 9 Dec 83 (OPECNA) — The OPEC conference which has been going on here since Wednesday, ended today with the following communique:
69th Meeting of the OPEC Conference
Geneva, Switzerland, dec 7-9, 1983.
The 69th meeting of the conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 7th to 9th December, 1983. H.E. Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates, addressed and formally opened the conference, and as outgoing president received the appreciation of the conference for his efforts for the organization.

The conference unanimously elected as its president, H.E. Kamal Hasan Al-Maqhur, Secretary of oil of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and head of its delegation. H.E. Dr Subroto, minister of mines and energy of Indonesia and head of its delegation, was unanimously elected alternate president.

The conference examined with appreciation, the reports presented by H.E. Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, chairman of the ministerial monitoring committee on the market developments since the conference's last meeting. The conference examined also the report of the economic commission board on the same subject.

The conference confirmed adherence to its decisions taken in its 67th (extraordinary) meeting held in London in March 1983 concerning price and production levels, and decided that, if necessary, the president may call for a meeting in order to discuss and adopt the appropriate measures for the defence of the OPEC price structure in the spirit of the said conference decision.

The conference appointed H.E. Dr Abbas Honardust, governor for the Islamic Republic of Iran, to be chairman of the board of governors for the year 1984, and Dr Ramzi Salman 'Abd al-Husayn, governor for Iraq, to be the alternate chairman for 1984.

The conference deferred the discussion concerning the appointment of the secretary general until further consultations be made and, in the meantime, asked the president of the conference to continue to supervise the secretariat's work.

The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the Federal Government of Switzerland and the Republic and Canton of Geneva for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 9th January 1984 after ratification by members countries.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna on July 10th 1984.

Mexican Official on Oil Pricing Policies

PA081837 Vienna OPECNA in Spanish 0716 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Geneva, 7 Dec 83 (OPECNA) — Mexico will cooperate with OPEC's efforts to uphold the $29-per-barrel reference price and to keep the oil market stable, Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto, Mexican under secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry, stated during an interview on Tuesday. He said that Mexico, which currently produces approximately 2.8 million barrels of crude a day, has limited its exports to 1.5 million barrels per day for almost a year as part of a "self-imposed rule" to prevent a price collapse.

Mendoza stated that the Mexican Government believes the current OPEC reference price is "fair and operable" and that it would be "risky to change it." Mendoza, who is in Geneva to hold "bilateral and informal" talks with several oil ministers of the 13-member OPEC during their annual convention, said that upholding current prices will benefit producers both in and out of OPEC as well as the world economy at large. He asked OPEC members to maintain their production ceiling at 17.5 million barrels per day and to keep in mind the "seasonal variations in demand."

Mendoza stated that although Mexico's goals are similar to OPEC's, his country has no immediate plans to join that organization.

Gharazi Attacks Saudis on OPEC Policy

LD091302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 DEC 83

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Geneva that last night's session of the OPEC oil ministers conference ended after several hours of discussion and debate. OPEC's long-term strategy and the election of a new general secretary were left for today's session. The report says that most of the OPEC oil ministers agreed on the decisions reached at the London conference last night.

Meanwhile, Mr Gharazi, our country's oil minister and head of the Islamic Republic of Iran delegation to the 69th OPEC conference, said in an interview at the conclusion of last night's session: On my arrival and in our meetings with the oil ministers of Ecuador, Algeria, Indonesia, Libya, Venezuela, and Nigeria, we raised the point that in the past we were harmed by the policies imposed from within and without OPEC. The change in the price from $34 to $29 was imposed on OPEC because they thought the market situation would improve and the reduction in the price would benefit the consumer and, as a result, demand would increase. But we explained that the price change from $34 to $29 would be a failure because of the planning policy and its results. This explanation satisfied most of the OPEC ministers. On the other hand, the need for the preservation of the production level and the producers' quota, and in particular the Saudi Kingdom's role as a production stabilizer, was made clear to everybody.

Regarding the stance adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other OPEC member countries on the return of the price to $34, there would definitely not be any change in demand and this could preserve the market. When there was talk about a joint communique, Iran asked those who opposed an increase in the price to explain the reason and since opposition to the price increase by any minister is considered as weakening the OPEC and his government, no one was prepared to oppose the price increase. Most said: We want to but we can't.

Attacking the Saudi Kingdom for not actively participating in making decisions on the appointment of a work committee and its role, our country's oil minister said: In this conference the Islamic Republic of Iran managed to justify the existence of a work committee to investigate the issue of reducing the price from $34 to $29 and the fact that this price difference has neither been given to the producer nor to the consumer, but has been put into the pockets of companies and governments. With the existence of this committee, we hope we will be able to make the OPEC members accept the main issue that the price must return to $34.

Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on the the election of the secretary general, Mr Gharazi said: We consider it the Islamic Republic of Iran's right to be the secretary general. We shall not give up Iran's position or right and will not allow this matter to be in the hands of others.

Gabon Minister Says OPEC Pricing Unchanged

AB091456 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Geneva, Dec 9 (AFP) — OPEC oil producers papered over the organization's internal cracks here today by simply reaffirming the strategy they worked out in London last March in a bid to stabilize a world market awash with crude oil.

Oil ministers of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries wound up three days of often bitter bargaining shortly after noon, deferring until next July the thorny issue of choosing a new OPEC secretary-general.

They immediately sat down to work out the text of an official communique to be released later today.

Gabon's Energy and Mining Minister Etienne Tchioba told AFP the ministers had formalized an agreement reached overnight committing the 13 countries to maintaining unchanged their pricing structure based on a benchmark price of 29 dollars a barrel for "Arabian light" crude.

To back up the prices, they also maintained current country output quotas and the overall 17.5 million barrels a day (MBD) production ceiling they set in London on March 14 after nearly two weeks of tough bargaining. Oversupply on the world oil market on that occasion forced OPEC to cut the benchmark price by five dollars, in the first ever such move by the organization which dominated the oil scene for two decades.

Iran renewed its objections to the price cut right from the start of the talks here, advocating a return to the previous marker price of 34 dollars a barrel.

Saudi Arabia, which came out firmly against tampering with the new pricing structure, was also challenged by Iran for failing to live up to its role as a "swing" producer inside the 17.5 MBD ceiling. Most of its OPEC partners were critical of high Saudi production levels since mid-year, that helped push the organization's average output to as much as 18.5 MBD in the July-September quarter.

What Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani described as a "serious commitment" to the London agreement, and agreement to seek a more 'rigorous" surveillance of individual output levels in the end was enough to satisfy Iran's oil minister Mohammad Gharazi.

Iranian officials said they considered the renewed pledge "by sovereign states" to respect the London agreement must be taken seriously. They also implied that Iran had made its point by securing agreement on a study by OPEC of how the March price cut had helped consumers and helped revive demand for oil.

Mr Tchioba, reflecting a view held by several delegates, said the reaffirmation of the London agreement was "the best we could do". But many delegations acknowledged that basic problems were left unresolved.

Indonesia's Energy Minister Dr Subroto said the ministers left open the possibility of holding an extraordinary conference, if market conditions changed for the worse, ahead of the next regular meeting to be held in Geneva or Vienna next July 10.

KUWAIT

Explosions Rock Capital 12 December

U.S. Embassy Hit

LD120729 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0703 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA) — A few people who usually go to the U.S. Embassy here have said that a booby-trapped truck stormed the embassy entrance this morning and exploded inside.

The same people said that a big explosion occurred and left a great number wounded and caused the burning of a number of cars, including the guards' car. The explosion also broke glass on houses and villas hundreds of meters away from the embassy, which is facing the sea.

Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Information Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Minister of Interior Nauaf al-Ahmad, and senior security officials headed to the embassy after the explosion occurred.

Police and ambulance cars rushed to the site of the embassy and started extinguishing the fire caused by the explosion.

No immediate information is available on the human losses caused by the explosion. The same people said that some of them were also injured by the explosion.

Further on Embassy Explosion

LD120808 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0733 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA) — Eyewitnesses have said that a truck loaded with explosives crashed into the gate of the American Embassy complex and exploded inside it. The eyewitnesses said that the administrative building front inside the huge complex was destroyed and collapsed as a result of the explosion. They added tha a fire broke out at the administrative and consular sections at the embassy complex situated opposite the sea.

They said there were casualties. However, they could not identify them. Ambulances, they said, were seen making several trips carrying the injured.

Dwellers of quarters neighboring the embassy complex said that the explosion has shattered their doors and windows.

No more details are available.

AFP: 'About 100' Injured

NC121008 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Dec 12 (AFP) — About 100 people were injured in the truck bombing today of the U.S. Embassy here, the most violent — and apparently the lone suicide mission — of six almost simultaneous explosions in and around the Kuwaiti captial, according to first reports from the scene.

Overall, according to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, one person was killed and 43 injured in the attacks, but witnesses at the U.S. Embassy said that figure was likely to rise.

Witnesses said the truck, filled with TNT and bottles of gas, forced the gate and then blew up between the embassy and consulate buildings. The consulate structure's walls collapsed, and the building caught fire, according to the reports.

Airport Control Tower

LD120757 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0746 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA) — The civil aviation administration said that a booby-trapped car exploded this morning under the control tower at Kuwait International Airport and resulted in the death of one person and injuring others. It added that the movement of flights at the airport was not stopped as a result of the explosion, which also caused material damage.

An official of the airport security informed KUNA that the explosion occured at 1000 (0700 GMT). The official, who asked to remain annonymous, said that the explosion was caused by a red Buick car parked at the tower officers' parking lot. Telex control offices situated under the tower sustained material damage.

Explosion at Oil Refinery

LD120904 Kuwait KUNA in English 0859 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — An explosive device was detonated at Kuwait's Ash-Shu'aybah oil refinery Monday morning, damaging gas installations, official sources said.

Blast at French Embassy

LD120859 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0844 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA) — Eyewitnesses said that an explosion took place this morning in front of the French Embassy here. The witnesses said that the explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car parked next to the embassy. They added that the explosion wounded a woman and two men but how seriously it was not determined. There are no more details about this explosion, which is the third one confirmed to have taken place in Kuwait today.

Consulate Destroyed, Embassy Unaffected

LD121149 Kuwait KUNA in English 1140 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — This morning's explosion at the French Embassy in Kuwait resulted in the destruction of the consulate but did not affect the main embassy building, according to details provided by embassy sources. The sources said that while window panes were smashed in the embassy building, an entire wall in the nearby consulate building was destroyed.

The three people reported injured in the blast were students at the French-run Voltaire Institute which shares in the premises

and one of them was reported to be in serious condition.

Four cars parked outside were totally destroyed, including one which was about to enter the premises and was assumed to have carried the explosive device, which blew up at about 10:45 local time this morning. Another three cars were slightly damaged, the source said.

The sources added that windows in nearby apartment blocks had been blown out, and the immediate vicinity of the embassy, which is located on a main highway in the Kuwait suburb of Jabriya, was sealed off by security forces.

6 Explosions; Cabinet Session

LD120914 Kuwait KUNA in English 0910 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — Six separate explosions occured in Kuwait City and its environs Monday morning in bombing attacks throughout the capital, official sources said.

The targets of the attacks were the U.S. Embassy on Kuwait's seafront, the French embassy in the Jabriya District, the control tower of Kuwait International Airport, an American compound in Al-Bida' area, the Ministry of Electricity and Water in Kuwait suburbs and the Ash-Shu'aybah industrial area.

The Council of Ministers has gone into emergency session which is being attended by the speaker of the National Assembly.

Later a booby-trapped car was traced to near the Hawalli passport office in the Ar-Rumaythiyah suburb of Kuwait, but security forces managed to defuse the device.

At roughly the same time, a device went off at Al-Bida', a coastal suburb some 15 kilometers from Kuwait city centre. The target of the explosion was a U.S. residential compound, for American citizens, and there were no details of casulaties or damage sustained in the attack which was apparently carried out by another booby-trapped car.

The Ash-Shu'aybah explosion occurred when a yellow lorry without number plates laden with gas cylinders blew up near the number 2 gas refinery at this major industrial and petrochemical complex. There were no immediate reports of material or human losses.

An Ash-Shu'aybah area security source said that 10 people had been injured, one seriously. Three of the victims were Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) workers and five employed by a refinery maintenance company located nearby. The other two were working for a contracting company carrying out repairs in the area.

The source said that some 50 or 60 gas cylinders were probably carried by the exploding lorry which only succeeded in damaging the installation's perimeter fence. He added that the blast could have been much more serious as piles of an easily-inflammable sulphur-based substance were dumped nearby.

Another of the explosions, that outside the electricity control centre on Kuwait's fifth ring road, did not cause any material damage apart from two cars, one of which carried the explosive device used in the blast. No injuries occurred at the site.

The centre was put under guard, but it was reported to be functioning as normal with the building itself unaffected due to the distance between the explosive-laden car and its apparent intended target.

Arrests Made

LD120931 Kuwait KUNA in English 0928 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — A number of people have been detained by security forces on suspicion of being involved in this morning's bomb blasts at the French and U.S. embassies in Kuwait, an official source said.

2 Dead, 54 Injured

LD121027 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1012 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has announced that the cars used in this morning's explosions have been seized and their owners have now been identified. The security forces are taking the necessary measures to reach the accused and to protect the security and stability of the country from the wanton criminals.

The Council of Ministers urges all citizens and residents to asist the security forces in performing their noble task. The Council also urges people not to listen to unconfirmed rumors and news because the government will broadcast all the news as soon as available so that the citizens will know everything.

The minister of state added that the number of those killed has risen from 1 to 2 and the number of injured from 43 to 54.

Minister Reports Casualties

LD120953 Kuwait KUNA in English 0857 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said here that the Cabinet is in emergency session after this morning's six bomb attacks in Kuwait. The minister told reporters that three of the explosions, those at the U.S. and French Embassies and at Kuwait airport's control tower, had resulted in one death, 43 injuries and material damage.

The remaining three explosions, aimed at one oil installation, the electricty control centre and a residential compound in Al-Bida', did not result in human or material losses, however.

He added that a number of suspects had been arrested.

The emergency meeting also was attended by National Assembly speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani and is still in session.

'Islamic Jihad' Claims Responsibility

NC121000 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 12 (AFP) — A man claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad organization claimed a series of bombings in Kuwait today in a phone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here. Calling at 0945 GMT, the man said a seventh bomb would go off within the hour. He added that the group would release a statement later. Islamic Jihad has claimed several attacks in the mideast this year.

Saudi King Contacts Amir

LD121015 Kuwait KUNA in English 1009 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — Saudi monarch King Fahd has contacted H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad about the explosions which occurred in Kuwait Monday morning, official sources said.

Arab Leaders' Contacts

LD121212 Kuwait KUNA in English 1201 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti leaders have been receiving messages and inquiries from other Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab leaders in the wake of explosions which took place in the country Monday morning. Officials emphasized that the Kuwaiti people and government were determined to take a firm stand against all those who would threaten the country's security.

Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah received a phone call from Bahraini prime minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah about the explosions.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal meanwhile contacted Deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad over the issue.

Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad also had telephone contact with GCC interior ministers after news of the explosions came through.

Later, it was reported that Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan contacted Shaykh Sa'd over the incidents.

One Bomb Defused

GF121128 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (WAKH) — Kuwaiti Interior Ministry sources reported today that a bomb in a booby-trapped car was defused. They added that this car was parked near the passports and immigration department in Ar-Rumaythiyah area.

The sources pointed out that a yellow truck which had no license plates exploded in the industrial area of Ash-Shu'aybah. It was also reported that four people were injured in Ash-Shu'aybah.

As for the explosions that took place at the observation and control center along one of the highways, there were no reported casualties. [sentence as received]

PDRY

Joint Yemeni Committee Concludes Meetings

GF091657 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The joint legislative and judicial committee of both parts of the homeland concluded the meetings of its session for the year 1983 today. The committee issued the following concluding statement:

The legislative and judicial committee of both parts of the homeland held its session for the year 1983 in Aden and Say'un during the period 4-9 December 1983. The meetings were chaired for the southern part of the homeland by Brother Khalid Fadl Mansur, minister of justice and awqaf, and for the northern part by Judge Muhammad Isma'il al-Hajji, chairman of the committee in charge of Islamic law legislation.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met with the members of the joint legislative and judicial committee during their visit to the city of Say'un in the province of Hadramawt. His directives had a positive impact on enhancing the work of the joint committee and on the results of this session.

During this session, the joint committee continued its discussion of the penal measures of the state of unity and endorsed a number of penal chapters which are included in this law. The joint legislative and judicial committee recommended the ministries of justice, supreme courts, and prosecutions in both parts to facilitate more contacts among legal and judicial institutions in both parts to the benefit of the one Yemeni people throughout the one homeland.

The joint committee agreed to hold its next session in San'a', the capital of the state of unity.

The delegation of the northern part in the committee, which is led by Judge Muhammad Isma'il al-Hajji, left Aden at noon today.

Deputy Chairman Meets With PFLP Official

GF101334 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Staff Brigadier 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the YSP Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, met at his office this morning with Brother 'Abd ar-Rahim (Malawah), member of the PFLP Political Bureau. During the meeting they exchanged views on the developments and situation in the Palestinian and Arab region.

Brother 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar affirmed the principled and constant position of the PDRY in support of the struggle of the Palestinian Revolution under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Chairman Receives Messages From USSR, Syria

GF111316 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received at his office yesterday evening Comrade Vladislav Zhukov, USSR ambassador in Aden, who delivered to him a written message from the Soviet leaders. During this meeting, a number of issues concerning the strengthening of the relations between the two friendly countries were discussed.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also received Brother Mahmud Ghanim, Syrian charge d'affaires in Aden, who delivered to him a written message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with developments in the Arab arena and means of confronting the increasing aggressive challenges by the United States and Israel which are represented by the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance and the armed aggressive acts by the United States against Syria and the Lebanese people. A number of issues concerning relations between the two fraternal countries were also discussed during this meeting.

Brother 'Ali Ahmad Muthana, member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, attended the two meetings.

SAUDI ARABIA

Lebanese Foreign Minister Holds Talks

LD101834 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1746 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Dec (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. They discussed conditions in Lebanon in particular and the situation in the Middle East in general.

Dr Salim told SPA that he reviewed with His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal all aspects of the Saudi-Syrian agreement and primarily the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, in addition to all the conditions in Lebanon and the situation in the Middle East in general. Dr Salim praised the basic role played by His Majesty King Fahd in the Syrian-Lebanese reconciliation and added that the Lebanese highly appreicated and admire the king's attitude as it is a valuable and noble role aimed at saving Lebanon. Dr Salim confirmed that positive attitudes have been achieved, thank God, on many matters concerning the agreement and coordination with Syria, and expressed hope for the unification of all efforts aimed at extricating Lebanon from its ordeal. He pointed out that what concerns the Lebanese is coordination with Syria in a way that secures for all the sides, whether Syrian or Lebanese, their rights to their land, freedom, and stability.

On his visit to the Kingdom, Dr Salim said that he was asked by President Amin al-Jumayyil of Lebanon to acquaint his majesty with the results of President al-Jumayyil's visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

King Receives Minister

LD111157 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1032 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Dec (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today received in his office at the Royal Court Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and by 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, minister of information.

Salim Departs 11 Dec

LD112132 Riyadh SPA in English 1927 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Dec 11 SPA — Lebanese Foreign Minister ElieSalim left here today after briefing HM King Fahd on President Amin al-Jumayyil's recent visit to Washington. He was seen off by his Saudi counterpart prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Prior to his departure, the Lebanese minister, in a statement to SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA), hailed the basic role of HM King Fahd to achieve Syrian-Lebanese reconciliation. "The Saudi Monarch has devoted much of his time and efforts to guarantee reconciliation in Lebanon and to narrow the gap of differences in Arab point of views of the Lebanese issue," Salim Added. He said HM King Fahd's efforts had culminated into Geneva reconciliation talks which were a "positive step."

Defense Minister Departs for Indonesia

LD091207 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, left Riyadh this afternoon at the beginning of an official visit of several days to Indonesia at the invitation of Indonesian Defense Minister Poniman. Before his departure Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told SPA that his visit is in response to an invitation from the Indonesian Government. His highness stressed that the Kingdom, under the leadership of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, is interested in the exchange of visits with Indonesia because it is a Muslim state and interested in cooperation in the service of Islam and the Muslims.

Reportage on Visit of President Numayri

Arrives in Cairo

NC092252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA) — Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri arrived in Cairo after midnight tonight from London on a few hours' visit to Egypt. He was welcomed upon his arrival at Cairo Airport by President Husni Mubarak. During his visit, President Numayri will hold talks with President Mubarak on the results of the Sudanese president's visit to the United States and some European states. The two presidents will also review a number of African and Arab issues and the recent developments in the Middle East. The session of talks between the two presidents is scheduled to begin tomorrow morning after which the Sudanese president will leave Cairo for Khartoum, ending a tour that lasted about 1 month.

Presidents Hold News Conference

NC101106 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Dec 83

[News conference held by President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri at the Al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo on 10 December; questioners not identified — recorded]

[Text] [Question] We ask President Numayri to comment on his meeting with Brother Mubarak today.

[Numayri] After a useful working visit, I met with my Brother President Husni during this short opportunity. It was a very useful opportunity during which we exchanged views. He enlightened me about what is happening in the Arab world and in the world at large. I enlightened him about the work I did during my visits to the countries I toured. We exchanged information, and it was very useful information for both of us.

[Question] Can you throw some light on the results of your tour?

[Numayri] The results are many. I believe we announced these results in each country that we visited. If you go back to the somewhat old reports published about 1 week ago, you will find these results.

[Question] Mr President, we want to be reassured about the political and security situation in fraternal Sudan.

[Numayri] Thank God. [Words indistinct] I am following all that is happening in Sudan. Brother Husni here in Egypt — and Sudan is part of the integration and part of Egypt — has affirmed to me that everything is alright.

[Question] You keep talking about the Soviet danger to Sudan coming from behind the Ethiopian and Libyan borders. Now that the strategic alliance has been revived to deter this danger, namely the Soviet danger in the area, what is your assessment of this revival?

[Numayri] Regrettably, like all developing states, we pursue our policy by piecemeal, and we only know of events at the last moment. The declaration of various strategies for the major states means that these states have found a chance to work in this area. We did not want this, but very regrettably this happened by the two superpowers, and our area has become an area of struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States.

[Question] However, what is your view of the revival of the strategic cooperation?

[Numayri] I told a journalist some time ago that I am afraid that Lebanon will be a flashpoint for a major global war in which nuclear weapons will be used.

[Question] Concerning the blockade of Tripoli, what is the attitude of Egypt and Sudan toward the blockade?

[Mubarak] Naturally, we condemn this measure because it is a hostile measure that does not facilitate or help reduce tension or solve the problem concerning the withdrawal of forces from Lebanon. I do not imagine it as a blockade in the real sense of the word. It might be a measure taken by Israel allegedly in reaction to the bomb explosion in Jerusalem. Regrettably, reports quickly circulated that the PLO was responsible for this explosion. In fact, I dont't know. When an explosion occurs at any place, does this mean that it was carried out by the PLO? Someone might have issued such a statement to give the PLO a bigger problem. I don't believe it is true that the PLO carried out such an act in which blood was shed. In its present situation, I don't believe the PLO carried out such an act. However, someone liked to blame the PLO in order to give it a bigger problem.

I had expected that our brothers in the PLO, who belatedly declared that they and the PLO have nothing to do with this subject, would answer it [the statement] immediately so they would not put the PLO in doubt and change its image before world public opinion, namely, that it advocates terrorism, which is not true.

[Question] President Mubarak, what in your opinion are the steps to contain the revival of strategic cooperation?

[Mubarak] This is not a subject for public discussion. We have given our view of the subject of strategic cooperation. It existed before, and it is nothing new.

We have an opinion regarding it and we conveyed this opinion to the U.S. Administration.

Our words were clear and specific. I cannot speak about it in general.

[Question] However, in return are there demands by the Egyptian Government to the U.S. Administration?

[Mubarak] Demands like what?

[Question] Demands of a kind of equal treatment at least?

[Mubarak] No, this subject I can't... [sentence incomplete]

[Question] Loans turning into grants and cooperation?

[Mubarak] We are not opportunists. Our demands [word indistinct] strategic cooperation. If we have something, we say it immediately and insist on it. But we are not opportunists like other quarters.

[Question] Mr President, [Words indistinct] that you go back to the Egyptian people concerning the return... [question incomplete]

[Mubarak] I do not do anything against the Egyptian public opinion.

[Question] Did you mean referendum on? [question incomplete]

[Mubarak] I tell you, I say I don't do anything against the Egyptian public opinion. Does the return of the ambassador merit that I make a referendum? [huwwa 'ashan 'awdat as-safir haa'mal istifta].

[Question] What is the way to feel the Egyptian people's view?

[Mubarak] We have many ways to feel the Egyptian public opinion. [laughter by Mubarak and others]

Leaves Cairo for Nairobi

NC100942 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0908 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA) — Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri left Cairo this morning for Nairobi following a 10-hour visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the visit, the Sudanese president held talks with President Mubarak dealing with the results of the talks conducted by Numayri during his 1-month tour of the United States, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom.

Yugoslavia's Mojsov Due in Cairo 19 Dec

NC091612 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA) — MENA has learned that Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, will visit Cairo from 19 to 22 December. This visit was originally slated for last month but was postponed due to Mojsov's participation in the nonaligned Palestine committee which met in New Delhi on 22 November to mend the inter-Fatah differences. While in Cairo, the Yugoslav minister will hold talks with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on current international issues, foremost being the current situation in the Middle East, particularly the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and the Palestinian problem. The talks will also touch upon the Iraq-Iran war, some African issues, and the nonaligned issues in light of the resolutions that the New Delhi nonaligned summit adopted. The Yugoslav and Egyptian sides will discuss the relations between the two countries and the means of promoting them in the various fields in implementation of the agreement reached during President Mubarak's visit to Yugoslavia. It is worth mentioning that this visit is the first to Egypt by a Yugoslav foreign minister since 1977.

PRC Delegation Departs for Home 10 Dec

NC101715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA) — The PRC Higher Political Consultative Council delegation, headed by Deputy Chairman Xiao Hua, left Cairo for home this afternoon following a week-long visit to Egypt, during which they were received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The delegation also met with Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The delegation also met with the Consultative Council chairman, the People's Assembly speaker, and with members of the Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee at the Consultative Council. The latest developments of the Middle East situation and means to strengthen relations between Egypt and the PRC were discussed during all of these meetings.

Lebanese, Soviet, Finnish Leaders Cable Mubarak

NC111230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received the following thank-you cable from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil in reply to the congratulatory cable his excellency sent him on Independence Day:

I thank you for the kind and noble sentiments you expressed to me on the occasion marking Lebanon's independence. I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness and the dear Egyptian people further progress and propserity. I would like to take this opportunity to express to you Lebanon's appreciation of all the support and backing Lebanon receives to help it regain sovereignty throughout its territory and the return of peace.

His excellency the president also received a thank-you cable from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in reply to his congratulatory cable on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the October Socialist revolution. The following is the text:

I would like to express to Your Excellency the chairman, our gratitude for the friendly congratulations you sent on the 66th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. We share the hopes Your Excellency expressed for the relations to grow further between our two countries.

President Mubarak also received a thank-you cable from Finnish President Mauno Koivisto for the cable his excellency sent on his birthday.

Cyprus' Ladhas Arrives, Makes Statement

NC111123 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — Yeoryios Ladhas, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, arrived in Cairo this morning heading a six-member delegation representing all political parties in the House of Representatives. People's Assembly Speaker Kamil Laylah, who received the delegation at the airport, said that the delegation will hold talks on bolstering bilateral relations in all economic and commercial fields, stim-

ulating bilateral tourism, getting acquainted with Egyptian People's Assembly members, and discussing the situation in the Middle East. The president of the Cypriot House of Representatives said that his country sympathizes with all Arab issues and supports Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian issue and the situation in Lebanon.

Mubarak To Seek Referendum on Envoy Return

NC091406 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has surprised the world and the Arabs with an interview published in the Egyptian newspaper *AL-AHRAM* today, in which he said that he will seek a referendum by the Egyptian people on whether or not he should send the Egyptian ambassador back to Tel Aviv. Mubarak did not clarify whether the referendum will be held through the Egyptian People's Assembly or a public referendum. President Mubarak had recalled his ambassador from Israel in protest against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. He stressed that the ambassador will not return before Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon.

In his Arab policy, President Mubarak has been eager to combine stances from 'Abd an-Nasir and As-Sadat in the presidency. It appears that he has decided to seek a referendum on the soundness of President as-Sadat's policy and on whether the people approve of continuing the liberal policy toward Israel or of maintaining the diplomatic relations which his predecessor had established with Israel during the era of Menahem Begin.

Since he came to power, President Mubarak has been advocating a policy of returning to the Arab world through his stances regarding the Lebanese crisis or the PLO, and 'Arafat in particular. Today he took a big step toward Egypt's return to the Arab world by calling for a referendum on whether his ambassador should return to Tel Aviv, particularly as this comes in the wake of the U.S.-Israeli agreement following Shamir's visit to Washington and Mubarak's strong opposition to this U.S. position, which he regards as a great obstacle in the way of peace. This step is regarded as a decisive political stance before he meets with President Reagan's envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, who has been charged with clarifying the U.S.-Israeli agreement to President Mubarak and moderate Arab leaders. So far there is no reaction to Mubarak's stance, but there is no doubt that it will meet strong reaction in Israel and Washington.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Mubarak's Statement

NC100728 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 10 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The People's Opinion," *AL-AHRAM* refers to the statement made by President Mubarak to its chief editor. In his statement, he said: Following the achievement of an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the activation of other stalemated issues, I will go back to the Egyptian people to ask their agreement on the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. All the attempts to put pressure on Egypt are rejected. *AL-AHRAM* explains that all the international news agencies and radios have highlighted this very paragraph, which has given President Husni Mubarak's stands and statements a popular dimension and a collective concept of historic and fateful decisions that not only concern Egypt alone, but also are closely connected with Egyptian national security, the Arab states' security, and the interests and demands of the Palestinian people.

AL-AHRAM says Mubarak's statement was in reply to the feverish campaign unleashed by Israel since the president's visit to Washington this fall and before the declaration of the strategic agreement. It adds that President Mubarak was clear and frank when he told the U.S. Congress that the Egyptian people must be convinced of and agree on the need to return the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv. This is the real concept of democracy which does not give the ruler the right to act and make a decision without popular support and unanimous approval that turns such a decision into being important and sacred. Concluding, *AL-AHRAM* affirms that peace in the Middle East is now not only contingent on the return of the ambassador, which is an act of sovereignty, but is also contingent on the abandonment of the resort to threats, the achievement of withdrawal from all Arab territories, the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights, and the establishment of peaceful coexistence among the peoples of the area, not on the basis of domination and control, but on the basis of a real understanding of the meaning of peace and with a unanimous popular approval that believes in and defends these principles.

Ash-Sharif on Mubarak Meeting With NDP Leaders

NC101708 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Statement by Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif on President Husni Mubarak's meeting with National Democratic Party leaders in Cairo on 10 December — recorded]

[Text] Replying to a question on strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, President Mubarak explained this cooperation and its effect on the Middle Eastern area and U.S.-Arab relations. He also explained the contacts Egypt held in this regard, the messages the president received from the U.S. side explaining its points of view, and Egypt's continuing the contacts in this regard. The president explained that Egypt's line is clear and that its strategic line is aimed at a just and comprehensive peace in the area. The president also said that the Egyptian decision is based on Egyptian public opinion. He gave a proof of this saying that the withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador [from Israel] had been in response to Egyptian public opinion and the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel will also be in response to the will and the views of the Egyptian people.

Replying to a question on conditions for the return of the ambassador, the president said that there were three points: firstly, the withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon; secondly, starting the Taba negotiations; and thirdly activation of the Palestinian issue. Replying to a question on the Egyptian Armed Forces, the president said that the Egyptian Armed Forces are the shield of

the state, of Egypt, and all the Egyptians. We shall always continue to reinforce them and work at strengthening them to enable them to defend this country's destinies, to protect development and democracy, to safeguard Egypt's dignity and the dignity of every Egyptian, and also to protect Egyptian decision-making. The president also said: The Armed Forces protect the people's democracy and freedom so that Egypt will continue to be a haven of peace, security, freedom, and democracy in the midst of a thorny area.

On the Lebanese and Palestinian issues, the president said: Egypt has had a clear line on the Lebanese issue from the beginning. We have warned of the seriousness of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. Israel must withdraw from Lebanon and the same thing applies to all the foreign forces.

Replying to a number of questions on the attitude toward the Palestinian issue, the president said: Egypt's attitude toward the Palestinian issue is a principled one. Egypt has endured and sacrificed for the Palestinian issue and will continue to adhere to its line so as to reach a solution for the Palestinian issue for the sake of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The president said: The Arabs also have a big responsibility — the Arab situation is extremely complicated. What do we find in the land of Lebanon? We find an Israeli occupation and a Syrian occupation as well. We also find a Lebanese-Lebanese conflict and a Palestinian-Palestinian dispute. All these things are happening at the same time when major international changes are taking place and the building of Israeli settlements is continuing. Thus, the Arabs have a big responsibility of solving the Palestinian and the Lebanese issues.

The president further said: The continued Arab attacks on Egypt over the past few years has had negative effects on the Palestinian issue. The president added: Egypt's line is peace; we are promoting development on our land and we are also building up our military forces who protect this development and the destinies of this people. Egypt is a big country and its people are many. There are 46 million Egyptians who have the right to life and to development, and who are looking forward to advancement year by year, and this is our responsibility. That is why our foreign policy always serves development and internal policy. Replying to another question, the president said: The activities of Egyptian individuals, whatever their level or position may be, must be governed by the immortal national commitment. Replying to another question the president said: We are the sons of the 23 July Revolution and our National Democratic Party is the party that carries on its shoulders the principles of the July Revolution and adheres to them.

Deputy Leaves for Baghdad With Mubarak Message

NC112103 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA) — Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid, People's Assembly deputy speaker and chairman of the Agricultural, Irrigation, and Mineral Resources Workers' General Federation, left Cairo for Baghdad tonight at the head of a delegation on a 5-day visit to Iraq. 'Abd al-Hamid said he is taking with him a message from President Husni Mubarak for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He added that during his visit, which comes within the framework of the visits exchanged between the two countries, he will hold consultations with the political and executive organs as well as with the Iraqi workers' leaders on joint action in the various fields, particularly in the agricultural field.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Discusses Current Issues

On Lebanese Situation

NC101739 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 10 Dec (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Egypt is in constant touch with the Lebanese Government and that this liaison is very firm. He said Egypt's relations with all the Lebanese parties are known. Egypt has no ambitions on Lebanon, but is working toward the attainment of national reconciliation. In an interview published in today's edition of the Lebanese magazine *AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI*, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said all the parties are dutybound to shoulder the main responsibility for preventing any foreign interference in Lebanon's internal affairs. He called on all the Lebanese parties to work and cooperate with the legitimate authority to attain national reconciliation and the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon. He emphasized that the comprehensive withdrawal of these forces is the only means for extinguishing the fuse threatening to blow up the entire area.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that Egypt is doubling its calls for the withdrawal of the Israeli and Syrian forces from Lebanese territory. He pointed out that national reconciliation will remove the reasons for the presence of the Multinational Force, as well as the danger of confrontation between the two superpowers. He explained that the foreign forces' withdrawal from Lebanon will lessen tension between Israel and Syria and will consequently prevent any foreign interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali pointed out that the Palestinian forces can no longer operate against Israel from southern Lebanon, and therefore the [word indistinct] and future of the Palestinians in Lebanon is linked with a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt is not content with only working with the Israelis to achieve peace, but it is also working to convince the United States of the need for holding a dialogue with the PLO and for requesting Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied territories. He said Egypt underlines the need for holding a dialogue with some Palestinians, pointing out the fact that PLO members, including Yasir 'Arafat, have met with moderate Israelis working for peace in the area.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali called on the Arab states to take constructive measures to encourage the United States to pressure and persuade Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon and to halt its settlement policy.

In his interview, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Since we are asking the United States to exercise pressure on Israel, those Arab countries that wish to see Lebanon independent must also exercise pressure on the states that do not want to withdraw from Lebanon, because there is no excuse whatsoever for an Arab state to keep its forces on the land of another Arab state, particularly

when the latter is officially asking it to withdraw these forces. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister affirmed that Egypt strongly supports 'Arafat's legitimate status as PLO chairman. Any unconstitutional change in the PLO's structure, Kamal Hasan 'Ali added, would steer the organization toward the abyss and collapse and would liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The foreign minister pointed out that it is necessary for a change to take place in the PLO's political leadership, but in a constitutional manner. Until this takes place, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said, 'Arafat will remain the legitimate PLO chairman. He said 'Arafat is in constant danger due to the current armed struggle. [passage indistinct]

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza should be given the chance to express their will, because it is these people who are suffering from the Israeli occupation. They should decide whether they want a federation or confederation with Jordan. He added: The citizens of the West Bank and Gaza should be the first to express their opinion — provided that PLO representatives participate with them — because the representatives of the Palestinian people in the Gaza sector and West Bank have the right to a choice. He said a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem will not be applied only to the citizens of the occupied territories but also to the whole Palestinian people. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed the conviction that the Reagan peace plan can still be implemented under the current circumstances. He said 'Arafat was subjected to pressure last March following his agreement with Jordan on this plan, a matter that made him change his mind. The current Palestinian tragedy is the price the PLO is paying for to its submission to is pressure.

On Arab-Egyptian relations, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said Egypt does not ask any Arab state to restore full diplomatic relations with it. Egypt is, however, focusing on the significance of bilateral relations and on the ongoing consultations that concern the Arab world's vital and national issues. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the dangerous situation in the Arab world is unprecedented in Arab history. He added that Egypt has never shirked its responsibilities toward the various Arab issues and kept holding consultations and exchanging views with the Arab states, despite the Arab boycott to which it was subjected. The foreign minister asserted that the cancellation of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement will never be a condition for Egypt's return to the Arab world. Egypt's objective is to defend the Arab nation's interests and to attain comprehensive solutions to the area's crisis.

Says U.S. Neutrality Ended

NC111308 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that what the Middle East needs is the intensification and stepping up of the peace efforts to provide solutions to the Lebanese and Palestinian problems and end the current tension in the region. In an interview to be published by the *MONDAY MORNING* magazine tomorrow, 'Ali says that the U.S. support for Israel ends the U.S. neutral position, which a full partner in the peace process enjoys. Consequently, this support, he adds, does not encourage the Arabs concerned to participate in any negotiations pertaining to the peaceful settlement. The Egyptian foreign minister demands the United States use its influence and persuade Israel to show flexibility in its policy on Lebanon and the Palestinian question.

'Ali discloses that Egypt has received U.S. assurances from the highest levels that the United States will not change its Middle East policy and that President Reagan is personally committed to giving impetus to the peace process on the basis of his initiative to establish a comprehensive and just peace. 'Ali says that Egypt has also received assurances that the U.S. side will seek to facilitate the achievement of a national reconciliation in Lebanon and a quick withdrawal of all the foreign forces. 'Ali says he hopes that this U.S. commitment will not be affected by any possible adverse consequences of U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement. The Egyptian foreign minister reiterates Egypt's opposition to the concept of the partial Israeli withdrawal from the south if it is not within a timetable for the total withdrawal, because such a withdrawal carries the dangers of partition. He says that Israel's continued presence near Al-Awwali River means nothing other than planting the seeds of partition.

Urges Self-restraint for Lebanese Factions

NC111422 Cairo MENA in English 1330 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text0) Beirut, Dec. 11 (MENA) — Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt urged all Lebanese factions for self-restraint [as received] as exchanged escalations could lead to a vicious circle of violence that would be difficult to stop once it is staged. In an interview with the weekly *MONDAY MORNING* English language magazine to be issued tomorrow, Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt received confirmation from Washington to respond to the Egyptian call for appeasement in Lebanon. He added that the armed confrontation between the factions in Lebanon would complicate the situation and that the settlement of the Lebanese crisis could not be done except through negotiations and not through violence. Hasan 'Ali affirmed that the armed confrontation between the United States and Syria in Lebanon would complicate the Lebanese crisis which should be solved through negotiations and national reconciliation. The Egyptian official called on the Lebanese to unify their ranks to find a peaceful means by which to settle their problems.

Hasan 'Ali said that the dialogue is a suitable means for removing the misunderstanding with the Syrian Government which is still rejecting the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, reached under the auspices of the United States. "A dialogue between Lebanon and Syria is a basic matter for reaching an agreement which takes into consideration Syria's security apprehensions on one side and Lebanon's legitimate rights on the other," he added. The Egyptian deputy premier and foreign minister called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon before the withdrawal of the Syrian troops, because drawing a comparison between the presence of the troops of the two sides in Lebanon is out of question. He reiterated Egypt's wish that the Israeli troops should withdraw first in accordance with a time-table not linked with the Syrian withdrawal. Hasan expressed confidence that

application of this rule will create a suitable position for the Syrian withdrawal, particularly in that the Lebanese legitimate authority has asked the Arab League to work for withdrawal of Syrian troops which came to Lebanon in 1976.

Hasan 'Ali criticised the measures adopted by Israel on the crossing of the Al-Awwali River to the north of Sidon, pointing out that such measures would sow the seeds of partition in Lebanon.

He called upon the United States to work for mitigating the sufferings of the Lebanese people in the south who are under the Israeli occupation and oppression. "The American continued support of Israel as shown in the strategic cooperation agreement between them, would not lead to the required moderation in Israeli policy," he added. Hasan 'Ali demanded that the United States seek required means for effecting this moderation. The Egyptian deputy premier and foreign minister underlined that the recent strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel has its impact on the image of America as a mediator in the Middle East, however, he reiterated that the Egyptian Government has received assurances that U.S. President Ronald Reagan is committed to the initiative which he declared in September 1982 for settling the Middle East conflict and solving the Lebanese crisis.

He expressed Egypt's welcome for chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yasir 'Arafat, who is expected to leave Tripoli with his troops recently. He said that Egypt supports 'Arafat in the face of the dissidents who are supported by Syria and who are working for further splitting the Palestinian people. Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt supports the resumption of talks between King Husayn of Jordan and 'Arafat for moving together towards the Middle East peace negotiations. "Such a dialogue, approved by King Husayn and 'Arafat, may be a positive indication for putting an end to attempts to freeze the Palestinian cause," he concluded.

Calls USSR Relations 'Normal'

NC111556 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the Arab Republic of Egypt is committed to the Arab nation's causes, that Egypt has directed its attention toward achieving a just solution to the Palestinian problem, and that Egypt is maintaining its efforts and is holding contacts with the United States and West European states for achieving this goal. In a statement he delivered today to the NDP leaderships, 'Ali said Egypt supports the Lebanese legitimate authority, the importance of achieving a national reconciliation, and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, beginning with the Israeli forces. 'Ali said that Egypt supports the freedom of the Palestinian decisionmaking and believes that it is necessary to hold a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue over the future of a settlement. On Egypt's relations with the United States, 'Ali said: The United States is a partner in the peace process and it is carrying out its responsibility in completing the peace process. However, Egypt does not approve of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement. On Egypt's relations with the Arab states, 'Ali said: Egypt's Arab relations since President Mubarak assumed office have been improving and there are Egyptian contacts with most Arab states. On Egyptian-Israeli relations, 'Ali said: Egypt is committed to the Camp David accords and to the peace treaty. On Egypt's relations with the socialist camp, 'Ali said: Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union are normal. The exchange of ambassadors between the two countries will take place at the appropriate time.

AL-YAWM Interviews Minister of State Ghali

GF111530 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Dec 83 P 5

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by *AL-YAWM* correspondent Safwat Abu Talib in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-YAWM*: It is obvious that the visits of senior Egyptian officials to the Arab countries are related to the events witnessed by the region. What do you think, in your view, is the ideal way through which Egyptian-Arab views can be exchanged continuously without the occurrence of a particular event or a specific situation?

Butrus Ghali: Egypt believes that the consultation and exchange of opinions and views with the different Arab capitals are an extremely important and useful matter that serves our national issues and interests. We are always ready to pursue any method that can serve this. We are also prepared to go to any lengths to meet any Arab country. We have welcomed any contacts with the Arab brothers, whether these contacts are made officially or unofficially, through official visits or private visits or at international conferences. In this regard, Egypt adheres to a policy of flexibility and does not care about formalities and traditional styles.

AL-YAWM: Senior Arab officials continuously say that Egypt has an important and distinguished place. Do you think that it has become necessary to restore Arab-Egyptian relations?

Butrus Ghali: The restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations cannot become a reality unless the Arab countries believe that the unity of Arab ranks is a national demand that favors the entire Arab nation and not Egypt alone. When the fraternal Arab governments realize the great addition which will result from the restoration of relations and when they realize that the division, disintegration, and rupture witnessed by our Arab world now are in fact due to the absence of these relations from the Arab arena, then Egypt will be welcomed.

AL-YAWM: Can the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations influence Egyptian-Israeli relations, and how?

Butrus Ghali: No. Egypt respects its pledges and the agreements which it signs. I believe that on the basis of interests and in all honesty, this should be obvious to all Arab brothers. Any talk about returning to the period before the peace initiative or the cancellation of the Camp David Accords is not logical and unacceptable. Can anyone imagine that it is possible to cancel the return of Sinai to Egypt, for example, and put it under Israeli occupation again?

AL-YAWM: What direction will Egyptian policy take toward the Palestinian issue after the recent developments in the Palestinian arena?

Butrus Ghali: There is a steadiness and continuity in the Egyptian support for the Palestinian cause and for the struggle of the Palestinian people for attaining their legitimate rights. This support was not at any time an eloquence of speech. We fought military battles in the past and we are now fighting diplomatic battles for the good of the people of Palestine.

In light of the recent developments and current factors we believe that the only available way at the current stage to push Palestinian rights is the Reagan initiative with its positive and negative sides. Therefore, we see that the first step should be made through a rapprochement and compromise between Jordan and the PLO. We support the legitimate leadership of the PLO which is represented by Yasir 'Arafat. We see that Yasir 'Arafat, who represents the symbol of the Palestinian struggle and who enjoys a wide popular support in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, can play a major role in this regard. Egypt will continue its contacts with the Palestinian side, the Jordanian side, the U.S. side, and Israeli side, in addition to our contacts with the Eastern and Western European countries for the sake of the Palestinian issue and for the sake of maintaining international concern over this issue.

AL-YAWM: To what extent can Egypt support Iraq, especially since Iran is still insisting on its obstinate position in its war with Iraq?

Butrus Ghali: Egypt is ready to offer what it can to support Iraq's defensive capabilities. However, we believe that the Iraqi-Iranian dispute can only be settled through negotiation and dialogue. Therefore, we call on the two parties to cease fire and negotiate in order to bring about a peaceful solution to their problems.

SLP Condemns U.S.-Israeli Strategic Agreement

PM121020 Cairo Ash-Sha'b in Arabic 6 Dec 83 pp 1, 21

["Text" of statement issued by the Socialist Labor Party (SLP) in Cairo — date not given]

[Text] The recent Washington talks between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir have resulted in a flagrant declaration of large-scale military, political, and economic cooperation, reviving the strategic cooperation agreement reached in 1981 between U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Israeli Defense Minister Sharon but never implemented.

The agreement's nine articles provide for the formation of a U.S.-Israeli joint military committee to act as joint command of the alliance and to supervise military and political cooperation between the two countries. This cooperation includes the use of Israeli military bases by the U.S. Armed Forces, the storing of arms in Israel for the U.S. forces, the financing of the manufacture of the Israeli Lavi aircraft, increased U.S. purchases of Israeli military products, the lifting of restrictions on the sale of Israeli arms to third world countries, and the holding of joint military exercises.

The agreement also provides for more cooperation between the U.S. and Israeli intelligence services and exempts Israel from repaying U.S. loans, which now become grants. Under the agreement as a whole, the United States becomes Israel's military and political ally, with a duty to support Israel economically and supply it with all types of weapons, including banned weapons such as cluster bombs. The supply of this type of bomb to Israel was suspended, according to the U.S. press, because it was used against civilians in Lebanon.

To justify the alliance, which destroys efforts to establish peace in the middle east, President Reagan said that it was meant to counter the threat to U.S.-Israeli joint interests resulting from the mounting Soviet involvement in the Middle East. The alliance, according to President Reagan, also reflects his own and his ally Shamir's concern over the Soviet military presence in Syria and the stepped-up Soviet military supplies to Syria. He forgets that the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon and the annexation of the Golan Heights — backed by U.S. efforts, arms, and aid — were the reasons which prompted Syria to seek Soviet arms to confront the aggression.

Although the declared U.S. position does not add to the already existing facts, it is nonetheless considered to be an official U.S. alignment with Israel — something which the United States had until now tried to disguise or conceal in order to preserve its relations with the Arab sides interested in maintaining those relations. This encourages Israel to persist in its aggression and trouble-making. It also denotes a disregard of the Arab nation and its interests. This complete U.S. alignment with Israel means that the United States is no longer qualified to play the part of full partner in the efforts to establish peace between the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The following should be the legitimate and practical consequences:

1. The Multinational Forces should withdraw from all the areas where they are deployed as neutral forces between Israel and the Arab states either as observers or as part of the disengagement arrangements. The reason is that [the United States] is now Israel's military and political ally, expressing Israeli interests, and as such cannot be a fair judge between the conflicting parties.

2. Now that the United States has officially taken Israel's side, it should abandon the role of mediator seeking to settle the Palestinian question or the Arab-Israeli conflict. It should leave mediation to the United Nations, as the international organization representing the interests of the entire world community.

The SLP, on practical grounds and in anticipation of events, rejected the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Now it calls on the Egyptian Government to reconsider the treaty in the light of this military and political alliance, which has been engineered to enable Israel to control the region and undermine Arab rights.

The Arab nation should not listen to the U.S. statements, made as a formality to pacify and appease its Arab friends, especially the ones whose oil and money it needs, such as the declaration of adherence to the Reagan initiative or the expression of eagerness

to continue supplying friendly Arab states with arms. We cannot live under the illusion that the United States will fulfill any legitimate Arab rights. These rights are threatened by the expansionist ambitions of Israel, the contracted ally of the United States. This threat will continue unless the balances of power change and unless the Arabs undergo a fundamental and comprehensive change that enables them to unite their ranks unconditionally against this grave danger. We must uphold the will of the Arab people, rely on ourselves, and strengthen our military, political, and economic capabilities. We must regain our free will and not mortgage it in Washington or any other superpower capital. We must repossess all the wasted Arab weapons, whether oil or deposits in U.S. and European banks, and we must adopt a balanced attitude to the superpowers and world blocs.

We must realize that the Arab nation's future is in danger. It is a question of: to be or not to be. We must rise to the challenge of events, which calls for every sacrifice in defense of the Arab nation's honor and future.

Party leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,305
JN091550 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA) — The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed 11 Iranians and destroyed 1 106-mm gun, 1 hardware stockpile, 1 excavator, and 6 infantry positions whose occupants were hit.

Communique No 1,305 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command here this evening stated that the Iraqi units in the northern sector of the battlefield captured several serviceable weapons and military hardware. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,305 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces continue their triumphant activities in the operations sectors against the forces of the rancorous Iranian regime. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our combat patrols pounded an enemy patrol which tried to approach one of our forward units' positions east of Basra with all types of weapons, forcing it to retreat after killing and wounding several, destroying one 106-mm gun and one hardware stockpile, and damaging one excavator. In other areas in the same sector our forces shelled enemy targets opposite our forward units' positions, destroying one tank and two weapons emplacements whose occupants were killed.

2. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our units shelled the enemy troop concentration, killing 11, wounding many, and destroying 5 infantry positions [as received] whose occupants were hit.

3. One of our forward units pounded an enemy patrol opposite its positions in the northern sector of the battlefield and forced it to retreat. Our patrols also captured several serviceable weapons and military hardware.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 December 1983

Communique No 1,306
JN101645 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) — It was announced here today that new groups of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forces in the northern sector of the front and that they were safely evacuated to the rear lines. Communique No 1,306 issued tonight by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that the Iraqi forces destroyed four infantry positions and two excavators during operations at the front over the past 24 hours. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,306 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The triumphant Iraqi forces have continued their operations against the Khomeyniite clique's forces of aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various weapons, our forward units opened fire at enemy positions opposite Iraqi positions in the central sector of the front destroying four infantry positions and one excavator.

2. Using artillery, our forces opened fire at enemy targets opposite our forward positions in the northern sector of the front scoring direct hits. In another area of the same sector, new groups of Iranian soldiers, who wanted to escape from Khomeyni's inferno and the oppression of his suspect henchmen, sought refuge with our forces. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

3. One of our combat patrol units opened fire at and destroyed an enemy excavator opposite our forward positions in the area east of Basra

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 December 1983

Communique No 1,307
JN111655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) — Forward Iraqi units pounded Iranian military concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the battlefield. During the operations carried out during the last 24 hours, the Iranian forces sustained several troops killed or wounded. One vehicle, two infantry positions, one observation post, and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed.

Communique No 1,307, issued here tonight, said that the Iranian artillery today shelled Sayyid Sadiq and (Shandari), damaging some civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,307 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our heroic Armed Forces are continuing their valiant fighting against the aggressor Iranian forces. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant forward units pounded two enemy groups which tried to approach our forward units in the central sector of the battlefield, killing or wounding several troops, and destroying one vehicle and its occupants. One enemy was killed and one infantry position was destroyed elsewhere in the same sector.

2. One of our forward units opened fire on the enemy positions opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing one and destroying one infantry position and one observation post. The occupants of the observation post were also killed.

3. Our forward units opened fire on some enemy troops opposite our positions east of Basra, killing one and destroying one machinegun position, whose occupants were also killed.

4. Yesterday evening the criminal clique ruling in Iran shelled Sayyid Sadiq and (Shandari) and their environs with artillery. The enemy shelling damaged some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 December 1983

Lloyds Source on Vessels Hit in Khowr-e Musa 8 Dec
JN091522 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] London, 9 Dec (INA) — A responsible source in the Lloyds Insurance Company told INA today that three ships, two Greek and one Cypriot, were hit directly yesterday by the Iraqi naval and air raids near the Khowr-e Musa Canal northeast of the Arab Gulf. The source added that two crewmen from the Greek ships were seriously wounded and were rushed to one of the hospitals in Bandar-e Khomeyni. The source also said that the Greek ship *Iapetos* had been severely damaged while the Cypriot ship *(Urhup)* received minor damage. The name of the other Greek ship is still not known.

The source said that Lloyds is waiting for a detailed report from its experts in the area on the extent of the damage sustained by the ships. It is believed that more than three ships are involved. He added that the company will publish a report on Tuesday on the incident containing the names, tonnage, and owners of the ships. An Iraqi military spokesman yesterday stated that Iraqi fighter aircraft assisted by naval units destroyed six naval targets which were trying to enter the Khowr-e Musa Canal.

Ships Warned Against Seeking Iranian Ports
JN100824 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) — The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says Iraq will continue to destroy ships which ignore its warnings regardless of their nationality or the flag they carry, because these ships are serving the war efforts of the Iranian aggressors and are encouraging Iran to disobey UN Security Council resolutions and prolong the war.

In an article entitled "A Legitimate Right," the paper today says the exclusion zone in the Arab Gulf has become a large cemetery for ships which ignored Iraqi warnings and did not heed what happened to other ships.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on shipowners not to sacrifice the lives of their seamen. It says these shipowners must heed Iraqi warnings and seek ports other than the Iranian ports and seas and other than the exclusion zone in the Arab Gulf.

The paper also calls on the governments which are concerned about the fate of these ships and their seamen to advise the owners to stop dealing with the Iranian regime and to save their ships from the danger of destruction and their seamen from the danger of death on the alter of greed and enticements.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that any ship which ignores Iraqi warnings will be a target for destruction the moment it entersthe exclusion zone. If it escapes destruction the first time, it will not escape the next time; no ship is exempted from attack. The paper says the Iranian Air Force and Navy are too weak to do anything, and the higher wages and freight charges are not more precious than the lives of the seamen.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by affirming that the Iraqis are masters of the exclusion zone on the sea and in the air. By destroying these ships they are exercising a legitimate right as long as Iran does not want to stop the war or implement the UN Security Council resolutions and so long as Iraq is deprived of its legitimate right to free navigation and the exportation of its oil from Arab Gulf outlets. Iraq will continue to attack the ships which enter the exclusion zone whether they are Iranian or non-Iranian, and will escalate its operations until Iran is compelled to heed justice.

Conditions Set for Release of French Workers
LD101406 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Three French experts working in Iraq for the Thomson Company are reported to have been taken prisoner on 2 December by the Peshmergas.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party this morning said the three men are in good health and set two conditions for their release: First, the return of 8,000 Kurdish families deported by the Iraqi regime; and second, the release of 57 Kurds sentenced to death by the Baghdad regime.

This news is confirmed by the Foreign Ministry which says steps have already been taken to secure the release of the three French men.

Prime Minister Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Accord
JN112102 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1820 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Statement by Prime Minister Mudar Badran at the National Consultative Council in Amman on 11 December — video recorded]

[Excerpt] The subject that is currently affecting every Arab citizen throughout the Arab homeland is that of the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel. You may remember that this subject was broached by the news media when His Majesty King Husayn visited Washington at the end of last year, and held lengthy and detailed talks there. When we asked about this subject, the U.S. secretary of defense replied that this subject would not take place at all and that it was a unilateral Israeli idea of which the United States disapproved. He added that he had earlier denied this subject. Today, after about 1 year and 1 month from that session, this subject comes into existence.

I cannot understand at all how peace talks can be held in the future in the manner that the United States requests without the participation of all sides, particularly the Soviet Union. How can we continue our confidence in the United States, which has moved from being a third party into a second party? This is a fact. I only mean to pinpoint this fact, regardless of its covers. The United States and Israel are on one side, and we are on the other. Therefore, there can be no peace in this area without returning to the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, and without returning to the beginnings of affairs. All concerned parties, including the Soviet Union, should participate in any peace talks. His Majesty King Husayn has contacted the United States several times on this subject. He tried to hold a dialogue and convince the United States both orally and through messages, but the Reagan administration's stand was that the Soviet Union should not participate — although the previous U.S. Administration did not object to this participation.

As the brothers have said, it is a black mark in our history and in the history of Arab struggle to allow Israel to occupy the Lebanese territory and to be busy with fratricide among brothers. This is the Zionist line on the occasion. Until when? We do not know. Our attempts and calls for an Arab summit continue. We are not with the side that calls for postponing this conference, regardless of the reasons. We in Jordan believe that the Arab leaders should sit together in this conference and should not leave it before all of these problems are solved.

I believe that no official or citizen can ask Jordan to assume any additional responsibility beyond this country's size and potential. We hope that the United States will go back on this alliance, which I firmly believe will intereact on all Arab lands. The reaction to this alliance will be harsh and strong. To say that the Arabs protest and cry for 2 or 3 days and then calm down, as some U.S. officials say in the United States, is completely untrue. This is a Palestinian question with which the Palestinian people have been suffering since even before 1948. These people revolted to establish their dignity and homeland in 1936 and several times since, through several wars. The Arab people did not forget the Palestinian question, and will never forget it. This subject is related to the Palestinian question and Jerusalem. This subject will never be forgotten. A person may forget himself and his entity, but not this subject. All comming generations will continue to know this question, feel enthusiastic about it, struggle and sacrifice for it, and pay everything that is precious for its sake.

However, we should not yield to periods of despair in our Arab world. [applause] We should not give up. Despair and capitulation are most harmful to this question. We do not capitulate. There are frustrations and frustrations, but this issue is alive in the conscience of every Arab citizen and will remain alive as long as this question exists. Every child, woman, and elderly person throughout the Arab world is aware of this fact and can never forget it. There are circumstances under which people are busy locally and with side issues and so forth. However, these circumstances will come to an end and these people will return to the backbone of the Arab cause. This is a backbone that will never be forgotten.

AR-RA'Y Condemns U.S. Stand on Tripoli Departure
JN110846 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 11 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Bargain and Umbrella Are Rejected," *AR-RA'Y* says: The absured situation created by the U.S.- Israeli strategic alliance has produced the blackmail which Israel is practicing in order to make itse!f a party to the departure of the Palestinian fighters besieged in Tripoli. Greece is requesting guarantees to protect its ships that will carry the fighters. France, which promised to guard the Greek ships, wants guarantees for the safety of the French escort ships. Yasir 'Arafat called on the Arab League to guarantee the safety of those who will leave. It is obvious that the Israeli sea blockade of Tripoli, and the official Israeli threats, which have already been implemented, to bombard the Lebanese port are what made these guarantees a precondition to beginning the departure operation. Amid these provocations, the U.S. Administration has preferred to resort to a suspicious silence toward the Israeli practices, as if it wants to tell Greece, France, and the Arab League that Israel is the only one that can give the required guarantees, and that those who requested these guarantees must deal with Israel in order to achieve them.

AR-RA'Y continues: Thus, the United States has preferred to give Israel the opportunity to practice blackmail and threats to assume an aggressive role larger that its size, and to turn Israel into the giant that will guarantee the safety of ships in the region. It is beyond doubt that this provocative U.S. stand has not been produced by a vacuum; it is the result of the U.S. alliance with the Israeli aggressors, and the consultations and continued coordination between both sides.

The U.S. Administration could guarantee the safety of those departing, the ships that will carry them, and the ships that will protect them if it has good intentions. But, since these intentions have been tarnished by the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, observers believe that U.S. hesitance in guaranteeing the safety of the

departure operation is meant to postpone the departure in order to give Israel time to carry out air operations to eliminate what it can of the Palestinian fighters. We must not forget that Yasir 'Arafat had warned of such an operation many times.

The U.S. umbrella, which the Arabs rejected when it was made of pure U.S. material, has now turned into a U.S.-Israeli umbrella. Thus, it has become uglier, more disgusting, and subject to more rejection and resistance than at any other time.

AR-RA'Y concludes: U.S. bargaining over the Palestinian fighters besieged in Tripoli will not succeed. The Arabs will not ask Israel's permission for their departure. We warn that bargaining will turn into involvement in Israeli terrorism, because those who practice and concoct terrorism, and even those who remain silent and carless about it, will never escape from terrorism.

King Husayn Confers With Bahraini Heir Apparent

JN101525 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 10 Dec (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received Bahraini Heir Apparent His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Issa Al Khalifah at An-Nadwah Palace this afternoon in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. In a statement to PETRA, the Bahraini heir apparent said that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn falls within the framework of the continuing fraternal meetings that have taken place over many years for the sake of constructive work between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Bahraini Government. He also added that he had conveyed Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Issa ibn Salman Al Khalifah's greetings to his brother King Husayn. The Bahraini heir apparent also pointed out that the talks focused on strengthening fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries and on reviewing the most important Arab issues and the situation in the Arab Gulf region in particular. He also added that this meeting takes place under circumstances and developments that call for consultations among the Arab brothers to exchange opinions and viewpoints in the interest of the Arab and Islamic nation. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak attended the meeting.

GDR Foreign Trade Minister Arrives 10 December

JN101900 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] GDR Minister of Foreign Trade Gerhard Beil arrived in Amman this afternoon at the head of an economic delegation on a 3-day visit to Jordan. The visiting GDR minister will hold economic and commercial talks with Industry and Trade Minister Walid 'Asfur and a number of officials on the means to promote cooperation in industrial fields and economic projects between Jordan and the GDR. During this visit, the two sides will sign an economic, industrial, and technical cooperation agreement between the two countries. Industry and Trade Minister Walid 'Asfur, a number of ministry officials, and the GDR ambassador to Jordan received him at Amman airport.

Al-Qasim Confers With Beil

JN111600 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 11 Dec (PETRA) — Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim received at his office this afternoon Gerhard Beil, GDR first deputy minister and state secretary for foreign trade. During the meeting, the talks dealt with bilateral relations and the means of promoting them in the various fields, especially in the field of scientific and economic cooperation. Al-Qasim briefed the guest minister on the developments of the Middle East crisis, Jordan's stand toward these developments, and the need for achieving a peaceful solution to the crisis based on the implementation fo the UN Security Council Resolution 242. The GDR minister briefed Al-Qasim on the GDR's stand toward the crisis — a stand that supports Jordan's viewpoint and Jordan's important role for peace in this region. The members of the accompanying GDR delegation attended the meeting.

Economic Talks Begin 11 Dec

JN111628 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 11 Dec (PETRA) — Economic talks between the Jordanian side headed by Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade, and the GDR side headed by Dr Gerhard Beil, first deputy minister and secretary of state for foreign trade began at the trade and industry ministry today.

Minister 'Asfur began the meeting by welcoming Dr Beil and the members of his delegation. He then said that economic relations between Jordan and the GDR were founded in 1977 when the two governments signed a trade agreement. In 1981 this agreement was expanded by the signing of a protocol that increased trade in the interest of both friendly countries. 'Asfur expressed the belief that the occasional meetings that the two sides hold are good steps toward ruther development and increasing economic and trade relations.

'Asfur reviewed the fields of cooperation between Jordan and the GDR, the scope of investment in Jordan, the legal exemptions granted for the encouragement of investment, and the tax exemptions for joint projects. He reiterated that the Government of Jordan welcomes the establishment of joint projects with the GDR.

Minister 'Asfur pointed out that since the beginning of this year, the Government of Jordan has been pursuing a new policy that links the increase in imports from various world countries to the amounts of Jordanian phosphates imported by those countries. He said: We hope that the GDR will import certain quantities of Jordanian phosphates. The two sides formed several subcommittees of experts to discuss the provisions of the agreement that will be signed on increasing trade between the two countries; on developing economic cooperation in the fields of industry, construction, irrigation, and training technical cadres; on the possibility of the GDR importing Jordanian phosphates; on holding trade fairs in both countries; on examining the possibility of establishing joint projects; on benefiting from Jordanian free zones; and on opening a GDR embassy in Amman.

Israeli Plane Hit by Syrian Air Defenses
NC091639 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1635 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] At 1815, namely 17 minutes ago, Damascus radio, citing a Syrian military spokesman, said that at 1203 a formation of Israeli aircraft flew over the Syrian positions in Lebanon, namely in Dahr al-Qadib, and that our air defenses intercepted the Israeli aircraft, forcing them to flee westward, after hitting one plane. The Syrian spokesman added that at 1612, an Israeli air target [hadaf jawwi] penetrated Syrian airspace, southwest of Tartus. Our air defenses intercepted it, downing it. It was seen crashing into the sea.

'Big Explosion' Directed Against Israeli Patrol
NC101721 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] At 1730 today there was a big explosion directed against an Israeli patrol on the Sayniq Highway at Sidon's southern access. The explosion was followed by intensive gunfire, lasting 10 minutes. The Israeli forces then cut the Sidon-Tyre road and moved vehicles to the scene of the incident. Reports from the south say that there is a large Israeli force concentrating about 100 meters from the explosion.

Israelis Raid Kafr Milki, Make One Arrest
NC111025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli forces raided Kafr Milki in Az-Zahrani District and arrested one of its inhabitants at dawn today. This prompted the inhabitants to act and confront the Israeli forces, which were compelled to demand reinforcements from Sidon. According to reports from the south, the Israeli forces fired indiscriminately at the inhabitants immediately after the reinforcements arrived. The inhabitants gathered at Kafr Milki's Al-Husayniyah, declared a strike, and cut the road leading to the township in protest against the Israeli attack.

RFL Reports Shells Land Near Rumsfeld's Car
NC091802 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanese Phalangist Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil received U.S. special Middle East Envoy Donald Rumsfeld at 1600 today and discussed the most significant developments in Lebanon. Sources close to the U.S. envoy said that two shells landed near his car in the Al-Hazimiyah area while he was moving from the U.S. ambassador's residence in Al-Yarzi. After the meeting, the U.S. envoy refused to disclose the topics he discussed with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. Shaykh Pierre said: The meeting was a useful opportunity to explain to the U.S. envoy the Lebanese issue and its reality and dimensions in depth, and to convey to him the views of the Phalangist Party regarding the various aspects of the Lebanese situation. Shaykh Pierre added: We hope that the Americans will understand us after 10 years of events and foreign conflicts on our territory. He concluded: It was a good opportunity to put the U.S. envoy in the picture regarding the present conditions in the country and to exchange views with him on them. I felt that there is a U.S. readiness and intention to save Lebanon from its ordeal.

Efforts Underway for Reopening Beirut Airport
NC101410 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The cease-fire decision seems to be respected by various parties. Limited violations took place in Beirut's southern suburbs and in the mountain this morning, but were immediately contained and the general situation was not affected. The new cease-fire was agreed upon at 2000 last night following talks held in Damascus by Colonel Simon Qassis, director of Army Intelligence, with former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Walid Junblatt, and Ayyub Humayyid, the Amal Movement's representative on the Security Arrangements Committee, in the presence of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Jean Nasif, the Army representative on the Security Arrangements Committee. Col Qassis held talks with some Syrian officials on the same subjects.

Following the return of Col Qassis to Beirut this morning, the atmosphere at the meetings was described as positive. All conferees expressed their readiness to contribute to stopping the deterioration and the violations, and to work for the reopening of Beirut airport as of Monday. The Security Arrangements Committee is due to hold a plenary meeting tomorrow at its headquarters to seek the implementation of what has been agreed upon during the Damascus meetings.

Cease-Fire Violations Continue 11 December
NC111702 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The cease-fire violations continued this afternoon. The Army positions in Al-Matahin, along the Ash-Shiyah axis in Beirut, came under gunfire. Meanwhile, contacts are underway to convene a meeting of the Security Arrangements Committee so as to put an end to the security violations and to apply the integrated security plan for Greater Beirut, its southern suburbs, and the mountain areas. The talks held in Damascus over the weekend showed the presence of good will by all sides for ending the security deterioration and reopening Beirut International Airport and the schools, following the setbacks resulting from their closure and their effects on the national economy and on the future of the young generations.

A spokesman for the French contingent this afternoon said that French paratroopers had opened fire on a suspect vehicle parked near their command headquarters in As-Sanawbar Palace. Two vehicles, one without a driver, were parked parallel to a French position. One man was seen pretending to repair one of the vehicles. This prompted the paratroopers to fire warning shots. The spokesman said the driver of the second vehicle then appeared and both vehicles left. No one was hurt in the incident.

At approximately 1800 today, clashes intensified along the At-Tayyunah axis in Beirut, where over 30 shells landed on the

Army positions. The Suq al-Gharb front has been blaze since this morning. The Army command has sent a medical team to the 'Uyun as-Siman area to rescue the people isolated by snow, to give them medical aid, and to transfer them from the area.

New Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

NC111852 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1828 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] We have now been informed that agreement has been reached on a new cease-fire to go into effect at 2030 today; that is, in about 5 minutes. We recall that an agreement had earlier been reached for 1820 today. However, this agreement was not observed. Immediately afterward, many contacts were held to achieve this new agreement with the hope that it will be observed, particularly as efforts are rife at several levels to end the security tension that occurs from time to time. Earlier, RPG's had fallen on the Army positions on the 'Aramun ridges. Shells also fell on the Army positions in the Ash-Shiyah area. This is the information given to us by security sources just a short while ago.

Al-Jumayyil Consults With Parliamentary Blocs

NC091813 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The consultations which President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil is holding deal with the best means which the parliamentary blocs propose for tackling the situation in Lebanon. Al-Jumayyil will resume his consultations tomorrow. Our colleague Joe Sa'adah at the Presidential Palace sums up these consultations:

[Begin recording] President al-Jumayyil this afternoon held national consultations with various parliamentary blocs. These consultations will continue today and tomorrow. The consultations held so far indicate that they are not connected with the government's situation or with the formation of a new government because perhaps the conditions for the formation of a government are not available now, as former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam had said. These consultations are centered on the best ways to be pursued to save the country. President al-Jumayyil is expected to conclude his consultations and his tour to the Arab and Western capitals concerned. However, it is clear from what has taken place so far that there is a need for uniting the domestic front and for ending the occupation as soon as possible. [end recording]

Salim Briefs Al-Jumayyil on Talks With Saudis

NC111926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Amin Al-Jumayyil this evening received a telephone call from Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, during which the minister briefed the president on the results of his meeting with Saudi King Fahd and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Well-informed sources described the meeting as very positive because the Saudi monarch expressed his full readiness to help Lebanon politically and economically, and because he showed understanding of the prevailing circumstances. Furthermore, the Saudi side expressed full gratification with the new page that has been opened between Lebanon and Syria, and voiced readiness for cooperation so that understanding will continue between the two countries. It was learned this evening that Minister Salim has arrived in Larnaca, Cyprus, and that he is expected to return to Beirut tomorrow.

Salim Briefs Al-Wazzan on Damascus Talks

NC092130 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan tonight received a telephone call from Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim who briefed Al-Wazzan on the outcome of his talks in Damascus with Foreign Minister Khaddam and Lebanese former Prime Minister Karami and Walid Junblatt. Minister Salim feels that there exists a readiness for creating a suitable atmosphere for a solution. The atmosphere that prevailed during the Damascus meetings was positive. The talks dealt with the future steps along the road to resolving problems. Minister Salim will leave Larnaca for Riyadh tomorrow.

Chamber of Deputies Postpones Policy Debate

NC121031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpts] At 1145 today, the Chamber of Deputies resumed its debate of the government policy. The debate began last Thursday. Today's session conveyed under the chairmanship of Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Ministers 'Isam Khuri, Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat, Ibrahim Halawah, Roger Shaykhani, and 'Adnan Muruwwah. The session lasted 15 minutes. Deputy Anwar as-Sabbah proposed that the session be postponed until Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim can attend and brief the chamber about the outcome of his visits to Syria and Saudi Arabia. Following consultations among Speaker Kamil al-As'ad, the prime minister, and the deputies, it was decided to postpone the session until next week, when President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil will have returned from his visit to Britian and when it will be possible for the foreign minister to attend the session and brief the chamber on his visits.

Al-Wazzan Meets With Delegation From Tripoli

NC111017 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met this morning with a delegation from Tripoli which conveyed to him a verbal message from [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami connected with the Internal Security Forces' supervision of the arrangements pertaining to the departure of the Palestinians and fighters from Tripoli. PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman today said that the PLO has received reassuring answers from [former] Prime Minister Karami indicating there are no obstacles in the way of the formation of the security force which will assume the responsibility for separating the fighters on the contact lines and provide security during the assemblage and

departure operation. In a contact with the national agency for inforamtion, 'Abd ar-Rahman said that 'Arafat and all the Palestinians will leave together on the same day.

More on Meeting

NC111241 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today followed up developments. He received the delegation of the political committee stemming from the northern coordination [in Tripoli] committee. The delegation conveyed to Al-Wazzan a message from [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami connected with the formation of the Internal Security Force which will separate the Palestinian fighters in the north and supervise the departure of Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters by sea to Tunisia and northern Yemen. Prime Minister Al-Wazzan told the delegation that action is being taken to adopt the required security arrangements with Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, the acting director general of the Internal Security Forces.

The meeting, which was held between Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the political committee stemming from the Higher Coordination Committee in the presence of Iskandar Ghibril, the governor of the north, and Tripoli Mayor 'Ashir ad-Dayah, is part of the current discussions on facilitating the departure of Yasir 'Arafat and his Palestinian supporters from Tripoli in cooperation and coordination with the Lebanese legitimate authority. During the meeting, which was attended by Brig Gen 'Uthman 'Uthman, the acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, and Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Karim Ghandur, the commander of the gendarmarie company in the north, the discussions dealt with the way the legitimate authority will contribute to the process of the departure. Agreement has been reached on certain clear bases and Brig Gen 'Uthman 'Uthman has been assigned to discuss the details with those concerned.

Presidential Adviser Haddad Returns to Beirut

NC101247 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Dr Wadi' Haddad, the presidential adviser for national affairs, returned to Beirut from Washington today after following up the results of President al-Jumayyil's visit to the U.S. capital.

USSR Envoy Visits Ministry, Makes Statement

NC101300 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov today visited Butrus Palace and at his own request met with Fu'ad at-Turk, the Foreign Ministry secretary general. After the meeting, Soldatov said that his country opposes the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance because it harms the Arab states' sovereignty and security and will contribute to the interference in their domestic affairs. Soldatov said that this agreement wouldn't have been concluded if there were a united Arab stand and strategy. The Soviet ambassador reaffirmed that the Soviet Union demands Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and the withdrawal of all other foreign forces, and that the Soviet Union supports Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial safety.

Pierre al-Jumayyil Claims U.S., USSR 'Fighting'

AU102115 Rome ANSA in English 2041 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 10 — In Lebanon peace must be achieved between the Soviet Union and the United States "because it is they who are fighting on our territory" claimed Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the [word indistinct] party (and father of Lebanese president Amin al-Jumayyil). In an interview to the Italian monthly *30 DAYS*, he insisted that the chief problem was achieving a true peace that would free the country from all foreign occupation, including that by the Palestinians. He claimed that the Palestinian struggle was being instrumentalized by "others who want war in Lebanon." The Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Antoine Khuraysh, also interviewed by the Italian monthly, said that the Lebanese were hoping for something good to come out of Geneva. He said that Lebanon wants to be united and strong again to be able to face an international situation hostile to it.

Karami To Boycott Lebanese Reconciliation Talks

LD091632 Kuwait KUNA in English 1448 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, Dec 9 (KUNA) — Lebanese opposition National Salvation Front co-leader Rashid Karami announced Friday that he would boycott any resumption of the Geneva-based Lebanese national reconciliation talks. Karami made the announcement after a meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim, and said that his decision was based on the results of the visit of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to Washington late last month. Al-Jumayyil was mandated by the first session of the Geneva conference to visit Washington and other capitals to secure an Israeli withdrawal from the country, but ended up affirming his commitment to his government's May 17 agreement with Israel, which Karami and other lebanese opposition leaders are firmly opposed to. But Karami, a former Lebanese prime minister, stressed that his stand did not necessarily apply to other leaders of the front, which also groups Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Karami added that what he called his "suspension" from the talks was tantamount to a demand to President Amin Al-Jumayyil to take a clear stand on the issues, primarily that of Israeli withdrawal, agreed upon during the first round in Geneva.

"We want the talks to succeed," he said, "but we need a programme on which we can outline the official Lebanese stand, especially that of President al-Jumayyil." A clearer line from the authorities was also needed on the American military presence in the country, he said. "If the U.S. wants to impose its interests, its followers, and its domination on Lebanon, this will mean an imposition of Israeli aspirations. We cannot agree to that because our priority is to achieve sovereignty, independence, and national

unity," he explained. The former premier said that unless a clearer definition of the American role in Lebanon was forthcoming, U.S. forces in the country should be withdrawn. Turning to the situation in his native town of Tripoli, Karami said he hoped a withdrawal of Palestinian forces as arranged by Syria and Saudi Arabia would go ahead as planned.

He said security arrangements had been finalized for the pullout on land, but a major problem remained in guaranteeing the safety of withdrawing forces outside Lebanese territorial waters. Speaking hours after Israeli gunboats attacked the northern Lebanese port, Karami commented that Israeli policy was based on constantly encouraging conflict in Lebanon in order to create an atmosphere of permanent crisis in the country. The United States needed to exert pressure on Israel to pull out of Lebanon, he stressed, adding that a failure to do so would only cause further bloodshed in the country. Such pressure was doubly imperative "because the United States claims that its presence aims to establish peace in Lebanon," he commented. Everything rested on a "clear programme from the Lebanese president," Karami stressed, "which will enable us to decide whether or not we can work and cooperate with the Lebanese authorities."

Karami on Plans for PLO's Departure From Tripoli

JN091949 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1752 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Interview with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami by Radio Monte Carlo announcer Antoine Abu Samra carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — live or recorded]

[Text][Abu Samra] In your capacity as chairman of the [Tripoli] Higher Coordination Committee entrusted to resolve the Tripoli crisis, I would like to ask you the following question: A short while ago, I contacted Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tripoli who told me that he is waiting for your arrival in the capital of the north to become acquainted with some of the remaining obstacles and procedures, particularly the name of the commander of the [Lebanese] Internal Security Forces who will supervise the departure of the Palestinian fighters. Has the name of this commander been decided yet, and are there any other measures than the ones already taken?

[Karami] I received today the political and security committee which was formed in light of the meeting of the Higher Coordination Committee which recently convened in Damascus. The members of this committee communicated to me several questions from the Palestinian brothers and asked me to clarify some of the preparations so that this comittee may carry out the duties with which it has been entrusted, including the issue of the Internal Security Forces and the commander who will supervise these forces' operations. I also received today His Excellency Dr Elie Salim and asked him to convey a message to their excellencies the president of the republic and the prime minister so that they may issue instructions to those responsible for the Internal Security Forces in the north to cooperate and coordinate with the Higher Coordination Committee and enable them to perform their mission. From this premise, I expect that the commander of the northern area, Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Karim al-Ghandur, and the commander of Tripoli, Major Marwan az-Zayn, will be the liaison officers and the coordinators, and subsequently those who will supervise the withdrawal operation.

[Abu Samra] Your Excellency, has Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim shown a positive response on this issue?

[Karami] The truth is that Elie Salim knows nothing about this issue. That is why I asked him to inform the concerned parties I previously mentioned to issue instructions to those in charge of the Internal Security Forces in Tripoli so that they may coordinate with the Higher Coordination Committee and the concerned committees.

[Abu Samra] Does the Islamic Unification Movement have anything to fear and does it fear that revenge operations will take place against it in the wake of the Palestinian fighters' withdrawal from Tripoli?

[Karami] Concerning coordination and cooperation on the level of the forces which are present in Tripoli, we would like to reiterate that these are the responsibility of the Tripoli family. I would also like to reiterate that there is nothing to fear by any party on the security level because we shall forget the past and open a new page. We shall all cooperate to eliminate armed manifestations from our city as a prelude to resuming normal life under the canopy of security and stability for all.

[Abu Samra] Suppose you receive the reply of the Lebanese state on the issue of the commanders of the Internal Security Forces who will supervise the operation of the fighters' departure, will there be other measures and other obstacles or will the issue of the fighters' departure be considered as settled for good?

[Karami] I believe that in light of the preparations which have been made and the forces which are entrusted with the mission of supervising the withdrawal operation, there will be no more obstacles, and if any obstacle emerges we are ready to deal with it and find the suitable solution for this obstacle.

[Abu Samra] Do you not believe that the Israeli threats and the blockade on Tripoli will delay the withdrawal?

[Karami] I am surprised by Israel's stand. Last year, Israel attacked the capital, Beirut, and besieged it from land, sea, and air in order to make the Palestinian forces leave Lebanon, particularly the capital. One year later, we find that Israel claims that it attacks a Palestinian base and imposes a naval blockade on Tripoli under the pretext that it wants to prevent the Palestinian forces and fighters from leaving Tripoli and Lebanon. This contradiction makes one wonder. We want the world at large to realize the evil designs of this state because it seeks to maintain the dispute raging among the Palestinians and in Tripoli.

[Abu Samra] If Israel maintains its blockade on Tripoli and prevents the Palestinian fighters from leaving by sea, is there any other way for them to leave, for example through Syrian territory or Syrian airports?

[Karami] I Understand that there are several countries, including Saudi Arabia, France, Greece, and Italy, and perhaps the United States, which usually works from behind the scenes, which are

exerting efforts to safeguard the withdrawal, particularly by sea. I also understand that this is proceeding in a positive manner. From this premise, I do not believe that the operation will face any obstacles.

[Abu Samra] Can we expect your arrival in Tripoli soon?

[Karami] I told you that the Higher Coordination Committee in Tripoli is undertaking all the measures on which agreement has been reached. I am here in Damascus and I am being informed by this committee of what is taking place. If there are any obstacles or demands, we shall do our best to settle them with the parties concerned. Contacts with Tripoli are very difficult. When we complete this stage I assure you that I will leave immediately for Tripoli.

[Abu Samra] You Excellency, my last question may not be directly connected to what is taking place in Tripoli. The government of national unity which President Amin al-Jumayyil intends to form will be formed by you but after the settlement of the problem in Tripoli. What do you have to say about this?

[Karami] I have said more than once that the national unity government, in my opinion, cannot materialize unless agreement is reached on the program and policy which embody the official and legitimate Lebanese aspirations, trends, and objectives. There can be no national unity without this general policy because the danger is that a government will be formed under the slogan of national unity while there is no national consensus on the principles and objectives. This would pose a threat to the existence and continuation of this government, a matter which would benefit no one.

Birri Calls for Army Deployment in South

NC101804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpts] At a news conference today, Lawyer Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader, demanded that the Lebanese authorities be prepared for deploying the Lebanese Army south of the Al-Awwali River, along with international forces, to maintain security in the south. He expects Israel to carry out another partial withdrawal. Lawyer Birri called on all the Lebanese to adopt a unified stand on this step, following the footsteps of the southerners' solidarity and unity, so that the withdrawal will be a natural action resulting from their solidarity and will not become a tragedy as had happened in the mountain, which made Israel's presence in part of Lebanon a requirement.

Lawyer Birri asked that the Lebanese state act immediately — whether through the UN Security Council or through contacts with the major powers — to ensure the consolidation of the UN forces in the south so they can implement Resolution 425, which provides for their deployment in all southern areas up to the international border. Birri said the establishment of a national unity government is a prerequisite, but after and not before a national accord. He said the policy statement of a national unity government must include what will be agreed upon at the resumption of the Geneva conference.

Amal Dissident Leader on French, Israeli Raids

PM091136 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Dec 83 p 16

[Interview with Husayn al-Musawi, leader of Amal dissident movement, by unnamed *AL-MAJALLAH* correspondent, in Al-Biqa' — date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: You are accused of being behind the bombing of the headquarters of the U.S. Marines, the French paratroopers, and the Israeli military governor in Tyre. What is your answer to these accusations?

Answer: I have told the truth, which I repeat for the thousandth time — that we had nothing to do with that case of aggression. I do not say aggression, but attack, on the French and U.S headquarters. I believe that they were overhasty in accusing us. The fact is that they know nothing about the "perpetrators" as they have no evidence in their hands. I am not avoiding responsibility, but saying that I have no knowledge of what happened to them. It is up to the relatives of the dead and the wounded to ask about the incident. They must expect injustice to win once, but justice to win many times. If those who have a right to do so are unable to bring the culprits to account or wreak vengeance swiftly, it does not mean that they will not achieve their rights.

Question: What were your losses as a result of the raids by the French and the Israeli aircraft?

Answer: In fact with regard to the Israeli raid on the Ba'labakk outskirts we have lost about 30 dead and a number of wounded. As for the French raid on Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks, which President Mitterrand tried to exploit for his election interests following his defeat in the French municipal elections, the French president estimated the casualties in our ranks at 50 dead and hundreds wounded. The fact is that the dead and the wounded we lost in this raid did not exceed the number of fingers on one hand. What matters to us is that we are continuing with this battle regardless of the size of losses.

Question: There were reports about an attempt on your life? Who would you accuse and who is behind this attempt?

Answer: I was not the target of an attempt on my life. The talks about an attempt on my life is the fabrication of the Phalangist radio.

Question: What is your connection with the Islamic Jihad organization which announced its responsibility for the recent operations?

Answer: I know nothing about the Islamic Jihad organization. I do not know if the so-called Islamic Jihad organization which claimed responsibility for the operation exists or not.

Question: Following the French raid on your positions, you threatened to resort to new fighting tactics. What did you mean exactly?

Answer: I meant to affirm to the French and the Atlantic alliance people that the confrontation will continue; the war

against those people will be of a special and new kind. The confrontation with the Americans, the French, the Israelis, and the others will not continue as before or with the same fighting methods. This, God willing, will become evident in the future.

Question: What are the possibilities of a new Syrian-Israeli war breaking out in Al-Biqa' in the future?

Answer: The possibilities are there. Maybe conditions will develop into a battle that will break out this afternoon or some other time and only God knows when will it end. Or maybe this will happen later. But in the end there must be a battle. There must be battles.

Question; It was said that recently you fell out with Syria because the Syrian defenses failed to support you during the Israeli raid on your positions.

Answer: That is a fabrication. There have been no differences between us and the Syrian brothers for this or any other reason. I have met with some Syrian officials and tried to learn from them the reason why the Syrian Air Force did not take part in the battle. I have learned that there were several reasons. That is the concern of the Syrian command. But 24 hours before the recent Syrian-Israeli battle in which an Israeli plane was shot down, Syrian officials informed me that the Syrian Air Force and air defenses would henceforth always take part in battles. And indeed the following day an Israeli plane was shot down.

Question: What is the reality of the Iranian presence in Ba'labakk?

Answer: The Iranian presence in Ba'labakk is cultural, social, and informational. It has no military purpose or anything like that.

'Spokesman' Denies Ruling Committee Formed

JN120624 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] A Syrian presidential spokesman has denied rumors which have recently been spread concerning the formation of a committee to run Syria's affairs. In his comments last night, the spokesman described these reports as fabricated, tendentious, and baseless.

Reportage on Visit by Lebanon's Elie Salim

Al-Asad Briefed on Talks

JN101221 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, this morning. Khaddam reported on the talks he held with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim during the latter's visit to Damascus yesterday.

Salim on 'Good Relations'

JN091656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has praised the good relations which bind the Syrian and Lebanese people, stressing the importance of strengthening them in order to better serve the interests of the two fraternal countries.

In a statement following his meeting with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Salim said: We discussed a number of issues of mutual interest to Syria and Lebanon, as well as the joint steps which must be adopted to settle the Lebanese crisis. He added: I also briefed Khaddam on the results of President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to the United States.

Dr Salim emphasized the importance of the efforts being made by Syria to achieve national accord among the Lebanese and to end the fighting in the Lebanese arena. He noted: My visit to Damascus falls within the framework of the continuing consultation and coordination on the stands and steps being adopted toward the events taking place in Lebanon. He described his meeting with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam as fruitful and good.

Dr Elie Salim and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus at 0900 today.

Karami Meets Salim, Comments

JN091738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met with former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami today.

In a statement to journalists after the meeting, Karami said: I was briefed by Dr Salim on the results of President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington in light of what took place at the Geneva conference. He added: Following an exchange of opinion on what was discussed with U.S. President Reagan, I asserted our clear and unchanging stand on the [Lebanese-Israeli] agreement and other issues. What was agreed upon at the Geneva conference will define the national stand which, in turn, will form the basis for a definition of the official stand.

In his statement, Karami denounced U.S. policy, which seeks to impose its hegemony over Lebanon. He declared: The United States is attempting to impose its interests, hegemony, and the demands of Israel on other issues. We cannot accept this, because we are working to safeguard our sovereignty, independence, national unity, and Lebanon's Arabism.

Concerning the role of the Multinational Force in Lebanon, Karami called upon Lebanese rulers both to define the mission of this force, and to request that it abide by that basic mission. Otherwise, the Lebanese Government must demand that it withdraw.

On the situation in Tripoli, the former Lebanese prime minister said: We are waiting for the implementation of the withdrawal in light of the Syrian-Saudi agreement. He added: As to the security of the withdrawal operations, we have made the necessary arrangements. We have defined the forces which will guarantee the security of the operation as far as the port of Tripoli. The responsibility of providing security outside regional waters falls upon the shoulders of those who are capable of ensuring the security of the ships at sea until they reach their destinations.

On the Syrian retaliation against U.S. and Israeli forces in Lebanon, Karami said: The acts of aggression staged by the United States, France, and Israel violate our legitimacy and rights, and constitute a clear encroachment upon our country's sovereignty and our people's security. Hence, I called on the Lebanese state to adopt the required stand in defense of all these rights.

Karami concluded his statement with high praise for both the Syrian Army's heroic stand and for Syrian policy, which rejected blackmail and confronted all aggressive forces. He said: This situation makes us thank President Hafiz al-Asad for these honorable positions, which represent and embody the loftiness and dignity of all Arabs.

Salim Meets Junblatt, Departs

JN091650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] At 1400 today, Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. Former Lebanese ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt also attended the meeting. The session was devoted to a discussion of the current situation in Lebanon. Dr Elie Salim left Damascus this afternoon. 'Abd al-Halim

Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, was on hand to see him off.

TISHRIN on Salim Visit

JN110950 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 11 Dec (SANA) — In its editorial today, *TISHRIN* deals with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim's statement that Syrian-Lebanese relations are strong and cannot be weakened.

TISHRIN points out that Salim's comment indicates that Lebanon's government has learned some lessons from the past stage, and is convinced that national dialogue is the path that will lead to peace in Lebanon. But this trend has had to face U.S. and Israeli schemes which seek a continuation of the civil war, the destruction of Lebanon, and its involvement in a war against Syria, all at a time when Syria has shown a readiness to help save Lebanon from its ordeal.

TISHRIN continues: This situation explains the continuing breaches of security in that fraternal country, breaches aimed at foiling the national dialogue and leading Lebanon into civil war. Israel pushes its agents to bring about a deterioration of the situation and to deepen divisions, while the United States promises military solutions through raids on Syrian positions, threatens Damascus with war, and bombards nationalist positions.

TISHRIN says: In Washington, President Amin al-Jumayyil heard that Lebanon's salvation can be achieved through the agreement with Israel and by seeking Syria's hostility, which will result in a deepening of the internal conflict, the resumption of the mountain war and the war in Beirut, and the destruction of what has not yet been destroyed in Lebanon.

TISHRIN asserts that Lebanon's salvation can be achieved only through inter-Lebanese and Lebanese-Syrian understanding, and declares that the Multinational Force was sent to Lebanon to help the Lebanese, not Israel and its schemes. Should the Multinational Force continue to deviate from its mission, it will become be an undesirable burden on Lebanon.

Libya's Jallud Addresses Press, Departs 9 Dec

JN091735 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's Revolution Command Council, has affirmed that Syria serves as the Arab nation's frontline in facing the challenges and aggressive plans of U.S. imperialism and world Zionism against the Arab nation and our existence. Addressing a press conference in Damascus today attended by correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies and television networks, Jallud called upon the Arab nation to provide all forms of assistance and support to Syria in its honorable stand. He said: If we want to preserve our existence as Arabs, then we must give assistance and support to Syria.

Jallud declared that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah — with all its economic, political, and military resources and capabilities — stands beside Syria in its confrontation with U.S. and Israeli aggression. He declared that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah considers itself as sharing a trench with Syria.

Jallud criticized the aggressive strategic agreement between the United States and Israel, and noted that this aggressive agreement constitutes a danger to peace in the region and the world. He pointed out that there is no difference between the United States and Israel, saying: It has become clear that any friend of the United States is a friend of Israel. Supplying the United States with oil and placing deposits in its banks contributes to the strengthening of the U.S. Administration — politically, militarily, and economically. Consequently, this is reflected in Israeli strength and helps Israel continue its acts of aggression against the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian peoples.

Jallud described the Reagan administration as more reactionary and aggressive than the regimes of the feudal era. He said: This administration is exploiting and misleading the American and European peoples. The U.S. forces in Lebanon are not peacekeeping forces; they are aggressive forces. However, the United States is trying to delude world public opinion by claiming that they are there to keep the peace. This has led to the involvement of European units in Lebanon as part of the so-called Multinational Force.

Jallud called upon the Reagan administration to cancel the agreement of submission signed by Lebanon and Israel under the aegis of the United States. He praised Lebanese nationalist resistance to the Zionist occupation forces, and pledged Libya's support for the Lebanese National Salvation Front in its struggle against the forces of aggression and occupation. He declared: They have the right to request support and rescue from any Arab state. They may call upon anyone to back their struggle against the Zionist occupiers.

'Abd as-Salam Jallud left Damascus at noon today, concluding a 3-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

JANA Reports Activities

LD091638 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, Rabi al Vawal 4, Dec 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning met with Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

British Prime Minister Receives Al-Asad's Message

JN091917 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1835 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher received a written message from President Hafiz al-Asad last night con

cerning the dangerous developments in the region which have resulted from the escalation of U.S.-Israeli aggression against Syria.

A number of sources in the British capital have revealed that the president's message highlights many important issues and facts, including the point that U.S. military escalation in Lebanon and the blatant aggression against Syrian positions there constitute a threat to peace and security in the Middle East and the world.

Talas on 'Conditions' for Lebanon's Sovereignty

GF101122 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1034 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Dec (WAKH) — Syrian Defense Minister Major General Mustafa Talas has declared that an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the achievement of national reconciliation are two conditions which must be satisfied if Lebanon is to regain its national sovreignty.

In a statement in today's issue of the newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, in conjunction with the magazine (*FRANCE D'ARABI*), published in Paris by the Arab-French Friendship Society, Talas said that Syria "would not allow any one party to control others in Lebanon." He also noted that "the Lebanese should be as they were before, by removing sectarianism in the Army and in the administration."

Talas accused Israel of killing former President Bashir al-Jumayyil. "Our intelligence service has received information proving Israel's responsibility for the death of Bashir al-Jumayyil. Israel also threatened to kill the current Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyil, when former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon visited Pierre al-Jumayyil to extend condolences to him on Bashir al-Jumayyil's death," he said.

Talas added: "Syria has received sufficient arms from the Soviet Union to meet its needs and these arms have prevented the United States from continuing its policy in the region."

He claimed that U.S. aid offered to Israel is always different from that offered to any Arab country. The Multinational Force in Lebanon "has abandoned the major task it was sent to do and, is serving those authorities which are criticized by a majority of the Lebanese people."

Talas said his country has documents which completely prove that the United States had full knowledge of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June of last year. In this regard, he referred to a statement by former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who said that the United States "gave Israel the green light to carry out this invasion."

Al-Ahmar Receives USSR Ambassador 10 December

JN101550 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] USSR Ambassador to Damascus Vladimir Yukhin has expressed his country's appeciation of the firm Syrian position in the face of imperialism and Zionism, and its brave confrontation of all aggressive designs against the Arab region. This came during a meeting between the USSR ambassador and 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in Damascus this morning.

During their meeting, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on regional developments within the framework of coordination and consultation between the two friendly parties and countries. The USSR ambassador also took advantage of the occasion to convey a message from the CPSU Central Committee on the USSR's stand vis-a-vis the policy of U.S. imperialism. The message dealt with the installation of nuclear missiles in Western Europe and the grave U.S. escalation of international tension in various parts of the world, as well as the dangers and consequences of such a policy. Comrade al-Ahmar also expressed the satisfaction of the party and the state with the friendly, supportive Soviet position on Syria.

Al-Ahmar Receives PDRY Official Muthanna

JN081835 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, has received Comrade 'Ali As'ad Muthanna, secretary of the YSP Central Committe in the PDRY, who is currently visiting Syria within the framework of coordination and cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries. The meeting was attended by Comrades Muhammad Salih al-Hirmashi and 'Abdallah ash-Shahhal, members of the Ba'th Party National Command; 'Izzat Hasan, director of the General Secretariat Bureau; and 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman, the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting, Al-Ahmar welcomed Brother al-Muthanna and praised the brotherly relations between the Ba'th Party and the YSP. The talks during the meeting dealt with the common tasks of the two parties in the masses' mobilization against the U.S. imperialist-Zionist-NATO plan against the Arab nation. They reviewed new developments in the Lebanese arena and the U.S. and Israeli operations of mobilization and amassing of fleets in order to wage a comprehensive aggression against Syria — this aggression which started with the U.S. planes' aggression against our Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Al-Ahmar explained the Ba'th Party stand, and that of its revolution in Syria, toward the current events and developments, affirming the Syrian people's determination under the struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad to face aggression and defend the Arab nation.

For his part, Al-Muthanna praised Syria's steadfast stand against aggression, emphasizing the stand of the PDRY's party and people on Syria's side in confronting aggression and defending legitimate Arab rights. He expressed satisfaction with this visit and the results of his meetings with the comrades in the Ba'th Party command.

At the end of the meeting, he conveyed the PDRY president's greetings to President al-Asad. Al-Ahmar also conveyed to him Al-Asad's greetings to President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Khaddam Receives GDR's Koenig 10 December
JN101004 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — At 1000 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Gerd Koenig, GDR first secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was also attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Rashid al-Kilani; Jabri al-Kafri, director of the East Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry; and by the GDR charge d'affaires in Damascus.

GDR Culture Minister Leaves Damascus 9 Dec
JN101325 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] GDR Culture Minister Dr Hans-Joachin Hoffman and his delegation left Damascus last night after a 3-day visit to Syria.

TISHRIN: U.S. Acts Called 'Declaration of War'
JN100756 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Toward More Surprises," *TISHRIN* says: The U.S. Administration's logic in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict has become identical to that of Israel. Indeed, it has become difficult to differentiate between U.S. and Israeli positions and actions. The U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance has not added anything new to their relationship, but simply gives it an official, contractual nature. This means that the United States has, legally and logically, become a direct party in the conflict with the Arabs. This refutes all U.S. claims about peace and the search for regional solutions. It is now impractical to consider the United States as a third party.

The strategic alliance, applied by the United States through its act of aggression against Syrian forces in Lebanon — which took the form of intensive air raids by U.S. bombers — is in fact a declaration of war against Syria. This means that the United States has fully adopted the Zionist logic and concept of security in the conflict. This is so because the United States has dared to claim that its aggression against our forces was an act of self-defense. This logic is in complete accord with the concept of security used by Israel to launch acts of aggression against the Arabs whenever its expansionist plans so demand.

Needless to say, Syria is fully aware of U.S. military treachery, its strike forces in the Mediterranean, and its mighty capabilities. It has also not forgotten for one moment that the United States is a superpower, one which has enough weapons to destroy and burn. Syria, therefore, does not want an unequal war with the United States. It was the United States which brought its fleets, missiles, and planes to attack us. But when the United States imposes war upon us, and the question falls within the context of our legitimate right to defend ourselves, our national existence, and our pan-Arab stand, we say that the United States will be surprised by our steadfastness, fighting, and splendid performance. The United States will be surprised that its strategic bomber, the Intruder A-6, and other equally effective bombers such as the B-52, which carries 13 tons of bombs and missiles, will be very easy targets given the determination of the Syrian command, leader, and fighters to protect Syria, its Army, and its nation. Just as the United States was surprised by the effectiveness and competence of our ground defense — something which the U.S. Navy itself admitted — so it will also be surprised in each escalation of the aggression against us by an even firmer determination, which stems from our honor. The fate of any other type of U.S. plane will be no better than that of the bombers which attacked us.

The United States, of course, does not overlook the fact that — in terms of military strategy — the downing of three planes means that all the squadrons which took part in the act of aggression were within reach of our missile batteries in Lebanon.

What we want to say is that the United States is no longer a third party. It has lost its qualifications as a party to the dialogue and has moved into the enemy camp. It has thus lost its role as a peacemaker. Its forces in Lebanon have similarly lost their status as peacekeepers. These forces have become an instrument of aggression in every sense of the word. The Arabs must treat the United States in light of this change and new role. We do not think that the United States will reject this, as it was the one which willingly chose this role through its alliance with Israel. The aggression against Syria is an application of this alliance and proof of U.S. good-will toward Israel. Perhaps the main objective of this alliance is to add the U.S. strike force in the Mediterranean to the Zionist war machine so as to restore the big gap in the strategic balance between the Arabs and Israel, and between Syria and Israel in particular.

This is why Syria has called for a rectification of the gap in the strategic balance, which was solidly established by the U.S.-Israeli alliance. Syria will spare no effort and will not hesitate to exploit any means to achieve an objective and strategic balance, one which will offset additional U.S. support for Zionist militarism. Just as Syria's borders and airspace are impossible to penetrate, Syria's honor and that of the Arab nation — through Syria — shall also be sacred and impossible to violate. They will find that Syria is equal to its responsibilities toward our nation, just as it has always been.

AL-BA'TH on Rumsfeld Visit, Peace Plan
JN110659 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Today's edition of *AL-BA'TH* comments on the objectives behind the latest U.S. moves. The paper says: On the eve of the arrival of U.S. presidential envoy Rumsfeld to our Arab region, a White House spokesman stated that Rumsfeld's tour will deal with some urgent matters. He added that these matters include the U.S. raid against Syrian positions in Lebanon, the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, and the discussion of a return to

Reagan's Middle East peace plan. Of course, these are the overt objectives of the tour. The covert objectives, as reported by the U.S. press, consist of reassuring certain Arab countries, which the United States considers to be moderate, that the alliance agreement with Israel is of no concern to them, and that it is directed only against those Arab countries which oppose U.S. schemes in the region — something which fully applies to Syria. It has also been rumored that the Reagan administration is seeking to obtain a specific Arab acceptance of Reagan's plan. This means that the Jordanian king will join the autonomy talks which began immediately after the conclusion of the treasonous Camp David accords and were later suspended as a result of a categorical and firm rejection by the Palestinian people themselves. The Reagan administration, however, believes that the road is very well paved for King Husayn to join the negotiations once he obtains the Palestinian card, which he failed to obtain in the wake of the departure of Palestinian resistance forces from Beirut last year.

AL-BA'TH adds: It would appear that the U.S. Administration — after using its military planes and ships, which are docking off the Lebanese coast as a means of convincing Syria to relinquish its principled policy of rejecting all that would harm the dignity and sovereignty of the Arab nation — has begun an intensive political move, backed by a military operation of still greater intensity.

Following Rumsfeld's arrival in our region, we see that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz has arrived in Tunis and Rabat. He went there after attending the NATO ministerial meeting, which was devoted to a discussion of the general situation in the Middle East, with particular emphasis on events in Lebanon. It is being said that Shultz has also come to reassure the Arabs about the U.S. raid on Syrian postions in Lebanon, and to discuss the Reagan peace plan and the need to return to it, especially since some Arabs — particularly King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat — have promised to accept it.

The intensive U.S. military move has not been restricted to bringing more ships and planes to the Lebanese coast and the Mediterranean. It has gone beyond this. Washington is now doing its best to activate the bases it has established in countries surrounding our Arab homeland, particularly those in Turkey and Portugal.

In short, the U.S. objective is very clear. The Reagan administration, which has taken up arms against all Arabs as a means of forcing them to accept evry one of its schemes, has thus far failed to obtain any results. This administration seems to have decided, in the wake of the strategic alliance agreement with Israel, to become more and more involved in the military field should it fail in the political one.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In any event, we in Syria will never give in to the policy of threats which the U.S. Administration is practicing in coordination with Israel and some Western European countries, particularly France. Our decision on this issue is very clear and consists of confronting all that will harm the just rights of the Arabs.

Jordanian Movement on Israeli-U.S. Alliance

JN081631 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 8 Dec (SANA) — The parties and forces of the Jordanian nationalist movement have stressed that U.S. involvement, its recent acts of air and naval piracy, and its strikes against Syrian positions in Lebanon all prove that the United States is more Israeli than Israel, and unmask its false neutrality — a neutrality on which some Arabs are still gambling.

In a statement carried by news agencies, the parties and forces of the Jordanian nationalist movement stressed that the Syrian forces' heroic confrontation and downing of U.S. planes is merely one Arab reply to U.S. arrogance.

The statement said that Syria is not Grenada, but is rather one of the bastions of challenge, which all honest Arabs rally around, protect, and support in order to defeat the enemies of that fortress.

The statement called on the nationalist and progressive forces in the Arab world to assume their pan-Arab responsibilities and to strengthen their unity with Syria under the struggler and historic leader of the Arab nation, President Hafiz al-Asad.

The statement condemned the strategic alliance agreement between the United States and the Zionist enemy, stressing that the U.S.-NATO presence in Lebanon is an implementation of this hostile agreement. The statement also highlighted the failure of U.S. policy in Lebanon, and declared that the United States directs its aggression against Syria because Syria is the one obstacle to the implementation of hostile U.S. policy in the Arab region.

The statement criticized the Jordanian regime's humiliating position, which puts its political organs and mass media at the service of U.S. objectives and those of its ally, Israel. The statement added that the Jordanian regime propagates capitulatory designs and calls on others to join them.

The statement asserted that the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel constitutes a danger not only to Syria, but to the Arab nation and its existence as well. It is a particular threat to Jordan, because, according to the Israeli-U.S. concept, Jordan is the alternative homeland of the Palestinian people.

Cabinet Discusses Lebanon, Economy 11 December

TA111158 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1152 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] In its session today the Cabinet heard reports on the issues of Lebanon from the chief of staff and the head of the intelligence branch. This part of the session was declared a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Minister Sharon's demand to appoint an inquiry committee regarding the talk between Simha Ehrlich and the U.S. ambassador in Israel did not come up at all at the meeting. The Government is now discussing economic issues, among them the situation in the ports.

Details of Session

TA111401 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1351 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Today the Cabinet authorized the minister of transport to issue confinement orders, in accordance with the codes for times of emergency, against the longshoremen of the Haifa and Ashdod ports if this is needed. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that at the weekly Cabinet session, the chief of staff and the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch both reviewed different security issues, with the situation in Lebanon heading the list. At the end of the session, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said that Israel was opposed to the evacuation of the terrorists from Tripoli under the aegis of the UN flag and with guarantees by other countries. At the same time, the Cabinet secretary refused to answer the question of whether Israel would hold up or prevent the evacuation.

At the end of a stormy discussion the Cabinet approved the Broadcasting Authority's budget until the end of the current budgetary year. The discussion was accompanied by harsh words from the ministers about the authority's way of functioning.

Cabinet Secretary Issues Statement

TA111618 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Statement by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor at end of Cabinet session in Jerusalem on 11 December — recorded]

[Text] We have explained our position several times and I am prepared to repeat it. We think that the UN organization, which is intended to further peace and safeguard human lives, must not and should not involve itself in granting protection or aid to terrorist organizations to move from one base to another.

We think this contradicts the role and nature of the UN organization. We think that other civilized nations, too, should not give aid to a terrorist organization.

This has been given a special emphasis after the PLO took upon itself the responsibility for the murder committed in Jerusalem. Only yesterday we buried the sister of the girl who was killed earlier.

'Noncommittal' Reply to France on 'Arafat Departure

TA110551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] France has asked Israel not to disrupt the evacuation of Yasir 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli, political sources in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. The appeal was made through the Israeli ambassador in Paris and, according to the sources, Israel's reply was noncommital. Correspondents in Paris reported last night that France has decided to reconsider its plan to escort the Greek ships which would evacuate 'Arafat. Spokesmen in Athens and Rome said that the countries participating in the Multinational Force have been holding consultations on the ways to secure 'Arafat's evacuation. The Cabinet will hear reports this morning about the Israeli Navy operation opposite Tripoli over the weekend.

Official on Evacuation Obstruction

TA111300 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Speculation that Israel might attack French or other ships escorting PLO from Tripoli is out of place, according to a well-informed source in Jerusalem. The source was commenting on reports that France has asked Israel for clarifications over what action Israel might take as the PLO is evacuated from the Lebanese port city. According to the source, there has been no contact at all between France and Israel on the issue. He told our reporter it was not at all likely that Israel will take military actions against ships of friendly countries, like France, and the French authorities have no need to even question the possibility. The PLO is simply seeking publicity and sympathy for Yasir 'Arafat and his terrorists by trying to portray Israel as the cause of the problem created by the PLO itself, said the source.

Arens on 'Arafat Evacuation

TA121311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said he hopes Israel will not be forced to open fire at the ships that will evacuate 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli. He added that Israel is continuing to maintain contacts with the United Nations and Western countries to undermine UN protection for the evacuation of the terrorists. The defense minister was interviewed by a U.S. television network. He added that extending protection to 'Arafat was tantamount to the Western countries agreeing that the terrorists who attacked the U.S. facilities in Kuwait be evacuated from there with the approval and escort of the United Nations.

Military Sources Deny Planes Downed 9 Dec

TA091809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Syria claims that today it downed an Israeli aircraft and hit another one. Military sources in Israel deny this claim out of hand. In a broadcast over Damascus radio less than an hour ago,

a Syrian Army spokesman said that this afternoon an Israeli aircraft that had penetrated into Syria's airspace near the Port of Tartus was downed and was seen crashing into the sea. The announcement did not mention what aircraft was in question. Radio Damascus also reported that at noon Syria's air defenses hit Israeli aircraft that had flown over Syrian positions in Lebanon in the region of Dahr al-Qadib and drove them away. The report said that one of the planes had been hit. As stated, military sources in Israel have denied both the reports.

Military Sources on Naval Attack Near Tripoli Port

TA091857 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Report by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky — live]

[Excerpt] Israeli military sources denied reports of IDF landing attempts or the activation of attack helicopters during the naval attack. Military experts stressed this evening that this attack should not be viewed as just another attack on terrorist bases in Lebanon. This attack, very close to the port of Tripoli, was launched to make it unequivocally clear, not only with words, that Israel opposes the evacuation of 'Arafat and his followers from Tripoli by sea. Whoever decides to send ships to take the men and equipment should take into consideration an active Israeli presence in the area. This does not mean, the experts say, that Israel will use force to prevent the evacuation; however Israel, through its missile boats, is making it clear it is opposed to 'Arafat's evacuation.

Shelling of 'Arafat Headquarters 9 Dec Denied

TA100514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The terrorists in Tripoli contend that three Israeli Navy boats shelled them again last night. According to the terrorists, the boats fired upon their positions, including those in Az-Zahariyah where 'Arafat's headquarters are located, with machineguns and missiles. Israeli military sources have denied the terrorists' claims.

Shamir on Relations With United States

TA120642 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2145 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 11 Dec (ITIM) — "We have to convince our friends in the world, and the United States first and foremost, of the justness of our path. There is an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding today but there are still disagreements over the substance of our lives, over the borders of Eretz Yisra'el, and the settlement in and security of Eretz Yisra'el. We are only halfway through now and we should continue to explain and convince."

These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to thousands of former Irgun fighters who convened in the Tel Aviv Mann Auditorium yesterday evening to mark the 40th anniversary of the Irgun's declaration of uprising against British rule in Eretz Yisra'el.

Shamir Sends Letter to Soviet Government

TA120740 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Dec 83 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] "We cannot conceive of attacking targets inside Soviet territory and we do not want to purchase Pershing missiles capable of reaching the Soviet Union," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir writes in a message he sent last week to the Soviet Government. In the same message, Mr Shamir denied reports carried by the Soviet press that Israel was, as it were, preparing to launch an assault war [milhemet Hatqafa] against Syria. This is the first time since Israeli-Soviet relations were severed that Israel has taken the initiative in a written exchange between the two countries.

Message on Pershings Denied

TA120915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0903 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Sources in the prime minister's office firmly denied that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a message to Moscow in which he said that Israel will not purchase missiles which are capable of hitting the Soviet Union. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the only move Israel has taken was to draw the attention of the [Israeli] ambassador in one of the Scandinavian countries to Mr Shamir's speech in the Knesset where Shamir said there is no truth to reports disseminated by the Soviets that Israel wants to procure Pershing missiles in the United States. The Foreign Ministry instructed the ambassador to draw the attention of diplomats in the Soviet Embassy in that Scandinavian country to this section of the prime minister's speech.

Shamir May Retain Foreign Minister Portfolio

TA091420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir may continue to keep the Foreign Ministry portfolio until the next Knesset elections, according to a senior Herut Movement source who spoke toour correspondent Arye Golan. According to the source, leaving the portfolio in the prime minister's possession could prevent shocks in the Likud. According to the source's evaluation, the decision was crystallized in consultations among Herut ministers.

Arens on U.S. Relations, Syrian Military Buildup

TA120640 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in New York last night that Israeli-U.S. relations are better than ever now. He was talking during a ceremony in which he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Yeshiva University. Arye Meckel reports from New York:

[Begin recording] [Meckel] On Israeli-U.S. relations, the defense minister said they are better today than ever and that in his

opinion this situation will continue. Israel and the United States have common strategic interests, Moshe Arens said, and Washington now understands better than in the past what and whom we are facing in the Middle East. If we cooperate with the United States, he added, there is a chance that the common goals in Lebanon will be achieved.

As for Syria, it is armed to the teeth today, the defense minister said, and is threatening to launch a war against Israel. However, we are strong and prepared and can defend ourselves, Arens said.

[Arens — in English] We are prepared and strong and able to defend ourselves.

[Meckel] It is worth noting that military and political remarks occupied only a small portion of the defense minister's speech which dealt mainly with Jewish issues. Mr Arens criticized U.S. Jewry for not emigrating to Israel and for not acting to prevent the dropping out of about 90,000 of the Jews who left the Soviet Union and settled in the United States instead of Israel.

Today the defense minister will be interviewed on U.S. television, meet with a group of senior journalists, deliver a speech before the Council on Foreign Relations , meet with a delegation of the Defense Ministry's mission in the United States, and hold a reception for a group of businessmen. This evening he will leave for Israel. [end recording]

Levi Leaves for France, To Meet Mitterrand

TA110700 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi left en route to France this morning where he will confer with French President Francois Mitterand and other officials. Prior to his departure from Ben-Gurion Airport, the deputy prime minister said he would discuss bilateral relations with the French president. However, he refused to reply to a question as to whether he would raise the issue of 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli. Prior to his arrival in Paris, David Levi will appear in Geneva at a convention of European Jewish organizations working for the rehabilitation of the poor neighborhoods. In Paris, Levi will also attend information rallies. Among other things, he will open the convention of the international organization of Jewish students.

Sharon Interviewed on Political Intervention by U.S.

TA091308 YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Dec 83 Weekend Supplement p 1

[Interview with Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon by Yesha'Yahu Ben-Porat; time and place not given]

[Text] [Ben-Porat] Ari'el Sharon, had you any idea, before this matter was publicized on Voice of Israel, that Ambassador Samuel Lewis spoke ill of you and tried to persuade Israeli officials to force your resignation from the government?

[Sharon] This is not new to me. I have also hinted as much more than once in recent months. However, I did not know about the talk with Ehrlich before I heard this on Israel's radio. I did not hint at this specific case; but the issue of foreign intervention in domestic affairs and the phenomenon of servility [hishta'bedut] to the United States have preoccupied me. The United States is our major ally and friend; I am not an opponent of the United States. The arguments I had with the United States always concerned what should have been done to prevent such situations as the one we have now reached. These situations today include the need for the U.S. Air Force to intervene in Lebanon. I wanted to prevent such situations. I am not for U.S. involvement. I am not for unnecessary fighting, either by the United States, or France, or Israel.

[Ben-Porat] Did you know Samuel Lewis conducted talks with officials against you?

[Sharon] I knew that talks were conducted. However, I admit I did not know that there were such detailed talks. I also know that there was not only one such talk but a number of talks; and I knew that their minutes were taken down. This is not a personal matter; this is a national issue. This constitutes a grave harm to our sovereignty. This should turn on alarm lights in Israel. This is the beginning of deterioration which opens the road to servility [hishta'bedut], and we should not let that happen even with regard to a friend such as the United States.

[Ben-Porat] Have you drawn the prime minister's attention to this matter?

[Sharon] Yes, of course, I drew the prime minister's attention to this. I had a personal talk with the prime minister, making it clear to him that despite the pressure in the communications media, I had not reacted since this is not a personal matter as far as I am concerned. This is a matter which the government should react to most sharply.

[Ben-Porat] There has been no reaction by the government to this so far, right?

[Sharon] I hope that whoever is anxious about the future of Israel, whether he is part of the coalition or opposition, will cry out and issue a warning, perhaps one of the gravest ever heard in Israel.

[Ben-Porat] Is it true that on this matter you sent a letter to the prime minister?

[Sharon] I submitted a letter to the prime minister in which I repeated, perhaps in greater detail, the need for the government to adopt certain measures to prevent the recurrence of such cases.

Sharon Letter to Shamir

TA091509 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Dec 83pp 1, 3

[Text] Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon on Wednesday sent the following letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir:

"Mr Prime Minister,

"Last Sunday, 4 December 1983, in a Voice of Israel newscast a detailed report was aired according to which U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, in a meeting with the late Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, acted to remove me from my post as defense minister, as a condition for improving relations between Israel and the United States.

"According to the report, the transcript of this talk — which was held before the results of the Commission of Inquiry were published — is in the possession of Ehrlich's widow and the transcript was done by a civil servant who was present.

"I have no doubt as to the truth of this report, which once again proves the incessant interference by some senior U.S. officials in Israel's internal affairs in an intolerable way.

"Although on the face of it it appears to be foreign subversion directed against me, in my opinion it is a vital question of principles that must concern the government.

"It is inconceivable for a foreign ambassador, even one representing the biggest superpower and the one most friendly to Israel, to deal with questions of firing and appointing ministers, just as no one would dare to even think of the Israeli ambassador to Washington acting in such a way.

"I am sure that you in particular, Mr Prime Minister, who fought courageously in the 1940's for the independence of Israel at the head of the daring LEHI organization [an underground movement headed by Shamir before 1948] against the mighty British Empire, would probably rise against any rude foreign interference in our internal affairs. I also know how sensitive you are, ever since those days, to the subject of Jews collaborating with alien elements, and to the handing over of Jews, by Jews, in order to appease foreigners.

" Therefore you will probably understand and comply with my requests:

"A. To investigate the grave and subversive interference by Ambassador Lewis in Israel's internal affairs by appointing an appropriate legal inquiry commission.

"B. To hand over right away the transcript of this talk between Mr Lewis and Mr Ehrlich, and the transcripts of any other talks held between them, to the state's legal authorities, so that they can be delivered to the body to investigate the intolerable activity of the U.S. ambassador.

"C. To hear the full legal testimony of the civil servant who was present in the talks between Ehrlich and the U.S. ambassador.

"D. To bring all this material, as well as the extensive material — direct and indirect — held by the Israeli authorities on the issue of U.S. intervention in our internal affairs before the commission of inquiry.

"This investigation which I am demanding, which should be of the widest scope, is necessary not in order to uncover the direct responsibility of some U.S. elements and persons for the grave blunders [mehdalim] in Lebanon, but in order to handle an issue which bears directly on our independence, to stop in time the grave process of intolerable interference by some U.S. elements in Israel's internal affairs, particularly now when there is a need to lay a true foundation for Israel's strategic cooperation with its great ally, the United States. Just as former Prime Minister Menahem Begin told Ambassador Lewis, Israel will not allow itself to be treated as a 'banana republic and a vassal state.'

"Mr Prime Minister, I have already explained to you the severity of the Lewis-Ehrlich affair in a telephone conversation on Sunday, the day the issue was publicized on the Voice of Israel, and asked for your reaction.

"I am waiting for your quick reply to my request.

Sincerely,

Ari'el Sharon"

Sharon Accuses Israelis of 'Collaborating' With U.S.

TA091436 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has accused those he called Israeli collaborators of, in many cases, having worked hand in hand with U.S. officials to have him dismissed from the post of defense minister in accordance with Washington's order. A talk between Simha Ehrlich and Ambassador Lewis about his dismissal, he said, was only the tip of the iceberg. He claimed that U.S. officials promised the Israelis a deal: Sharon's dismissal in return for an improvement in relations with the United States. He said that everything known about this — the subversion [hatranut] by several Americans and their intervention in Israel's domestic affairs — should be brought to a commission of inquiry. Sharon is demanding to know how the late deputy prime minister, Simha Ehrlich, could promise the U.S. ambassador, even before the publication of the Kahan Commission's report on Sabra and Shatila, that Sharon would be dismissed right after its publication. According to Sharon, Aharon Kochn [not further identified] was once put on trial for a much lesser offense. Ari'el Sharon also said he had not spoken with the prime minister about the possibility of his being appointed foreign minister; he is only interested in the State of Israel's important national needs. Sharon's remarks were included in an interview granted to our correspondent David Margalit.

Security Forces Destroy, Seal Off W. Bank Homes

TA120540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Last night the security forces tore down houses of three terrorists in Ramallah and Hebron. The three are members of the terrorist squad which was involved in the murder of yehshiva student Aharon Gross in Hebron about 6 months ago. They also sealed off the house of a fourth member of this squad. During their interrogation, the terrorists confessed they had been involved in the murder; they will soon be courtmartialed. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that additionally the security forces sealed off three houses in Hebron which belong to the

members of another terrorist squad which they cracked down on 2 months ago. Its members belong to the Fatah organization and carried out terrorist acts against Israelis in the Hebron area. They, too, will be brought to trial soon.

Deny Killing Nabulus Girl

TA091535 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 83 pp 1,2

[Report by Tzvi Bar'el]

[Excerpt] According to a preliminary investigation by the security forces, security forces in the Nabulus area did not open fire at all. Therefore the account of civilians in a car opening fire and killing the girl is reinforced. However, according to another version, the incident began when numerous military forces began searching the labor union offices in Nabulus, where an exhibition was being held. Youths who were in the vicinity began to throw stones at the soldiers and then, during the dispersal of the stonethrowers, shots were fired at them. This is what killed the girl and wounded her sister. As stated, this version has been denied by military sources. The security forces set up roadblocks on the main traffic artery with the intention of locating the car described. The area of the incident in Nabulus was closed off by the Army. During the search in the labor union center in Nabulus, the chairman of the unions, (Shihadah al-Minawi), was arrested; material not permitted to be published and kept was confiscated. The day before yesterday, security forces closed stores on (Hitin) street in Nabulus during the night in reaction to a handgrenade having been thrown at a military vehicle. Nobody was harmed by the F-1 grenade; there was no damage.

There were also demonstrations last night in Al-Birah just as the head of the civilian administration was about to inaugurate a school. Youths threw stones into the guests' cars, flew a Palestinian flag from the school roof, set up stone barriers, and set fire to tires. During the stone-throwing, the school's director was hit. The security forces used tear gas to disperse the rioters and arrested dozens of youths for interrogation.

There were also incidents of stonethrowing against Israeli vehicles near the Har Berakha settlement, where the windshield of a vehicle belonging to the settlement was shattered. In the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem stones were thrown at a bus going to Qiryat Arba'. The passengers began to pursue the attackers but did not catch them.

Gaza Area Leaders Denounce Jerusalem Bus Blast

TA091744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Some council leaders from the Gaza Strip, among them the Khan Yunis mayor, joined the territories' notables who denounced the explosion on the Jerusalem bus.

The condemnation was given to Brigadier General Avraham Binyamin, the head of the civilian administration in the strip, when he visited some of the area's settlements.

IDF Continues Patrols Beyond Al-Awwali Line

TA121019 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Dec 83 p 3

[Report by correspondent in north, Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] The IDF forces in Lebanon continue to conduct patrols beyond the Al-Awwali line, in the Ash-Shuf area and in Druze centers in the region, as part of their daily security missions. The IDF patrols are conducted in the open, in armored personnel carriers and other vehicles flying Israeli flags, and in full coordination with Druze commanders in the area. The patrols in the Druze villages and towns are usually escorted by Druze commanders in the area who lead the convoy. A few days ago, the IDF asked the Druze to move north an artillery battery they had stationed on the slopes of Jabal al-Baruk with which they shelled the Beirut area. The IDF urged the Druze commanders to move the battery for fear that in the counter-fire shells would hit nearby IDF positions.

Thirteen retired generals from all branches of the U.S. Army toured the eastern front in Lebanon at the end of the week, observed Syrian territory from the IDF positions, and were briefed about what is happening in the area by senior IDF officers. It has emerged from reports by IDF officers that absolute calm has prevailed recently on the eastern front. However, a high level of alertness could be discerned on the Syrian side, particularly on days when battles and bombings occurred. The Syrians maintain strict discipline and rarely wander outside their trenches.

It has also emerged that the Syrians have not moved antiaircraft batteries into Al-Biqa' and that they keep mobile SAM-7 shoulder missiles in that area. These latter may have been used against U.S. and Israeli aircraft in the last 2 weeks.

According to senior officers in the eastern front, the IDF has taken a series of measures which recently have been preventing infiltration attempts.

Druze Request IDF Passage to West Beirut

TA091516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The Druze in Lebanon have asked the IDF to permit the inhabitants of the Ash-Shuf mountains to go to West Beirut and southern Lebanon via roads under the IDF's control. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the request was submitted by a delegation of notables from Lebanon to the Druze spiritual leader in Israel, Shaykh Amin Tarif. According to the delegation, many Druze villages in the Ash-Shuf mountains are cut off because the U.S. Marines positions overlook the traffic arteries and the Lebanese Army is also shelling the roads.

IDF Soldier Killed in Sidon Explosion

TA110550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] An IDF soldier, Shlomo Alfasi from Rehovot, was killed last night when an explosive charge blew up in Sidon. The IDF

spokesman reported that the charge exploded on the side of the road in the southern outskirts of Sidon when an IDF convoy was driving through the site. The patrol opened fire at the ambush and began searches. Shlomo Alfasi, who was killed in the incident, was 19 years old.

Our correspondent in the north says that since the terrorists were released from Ansar there has been a rise in the number of attacks and attempted terrorist attacks in southern Lebanon. Sources in the defense establishment told our correspondent Hayim Hecht they assess that some of the terrorists released from Ansar have been involved in terrorist activities in the last few days.

There have been 15 attempted attacks from citrus groves on the sides of the road south of Sidon in the last 2 months. Senior IDF officers urge the immediate uprooting of the groves where the terrorists seek refuge.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the IDF is examining ways to prevent attacks.Among other things, it is contemplating the destruction of abandoned buildings and hiding places on the sides of the roads.

Israeli-U.S. Military Committee To Meet in January

TA091357 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 83 p 2

[Report from the United States by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] The Israeli-U.S. joint political-military group is to hold its first session in Washington during the first 10 days of January. Yesterday Israeli Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne met for a short time with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who had just returned from a trip to Europe.

The meeting, which was also attended by Defense and Armed Forces Attache Major General Uri Simhoni, the embassy's political adviser, (Robby Sabel), and the head of the procurement mission Avraham Ben-Yosef, was held in a friendly atmosphere.

This cordiality was emphasized by the Israeli participants in view of the impression that Weinberger has reservations about the rapprochement with Israel. Most of the talk was devoted to a discussion of the upcoming meeting of the joint committee. Part of the talk was devoted to a tete-a-tete meeting between Weinberger and Rosenne.

Correction to Palestinians Comment on Bus Blast

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Publisher Blames Abu Nidal in Bus Blast," published in the 9 December Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page I 3, seventh paragraph, line four:

...He says the Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group based in Damascus carried out the bombing. ...(changing name Hasan al-Banna to Sabri al-Banna.)

OAU Adopts Resolution on Southern Africa

EA092237 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The OAU administration, budget, and financial consulting committee ended its meeting today and approved a five-point resolution concerning the situation in southern Africa. In its statement, the OAU declared that the committee's 37th regular session, which opened on 20 November 1983, examined the struggle for independence in southern Africa and the grave situation prevailing in that region.

The meeting placed particular emphasis on the acts of aggression launched against neighboring states by racist South Africa, and on the delay of Namibian independence. The committee reaffirmed the decisive stand adopted by OAU member states in favor of the continent's full independence. It also called upon member states to satisfy their obligations by providing financial and material aid to the freedom (?committee) and the national independence movements.

The committee's solidarity with the countries bordering South Africa — especially Angola and Mozambique — is reflected by the Committee's firm condemnation of the plot to link Namibian independence to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. Apart from this, the committee called upon the international community to increase its aid to Angola, Mozambique, and the national independence movements in the struggle to eradicate oppression, (?interference), and racism from the African Continent.

More on Committee's Statement

AB091217 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Addis Ababa, Dec 9 (AFP) — A top advisory committee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) today urged member states to meet their "financial and material obligations" to the special OAU liberation fund, a strong hint that those obligations were so far not being met.

The advisory committee on administrative, budgetary and financial matters made the call after hearing a general review of the liberation struggle and what it termed "the alarming situation" prevailing in southern Africa.

The committee was due to end an 11-day session here later today that was devoted to thrashing out the details of a draft budget proposed by the secretariat for the 1984-85 period. Its recommendations, considered crucial by the secretariat, will be submitted to the OAU Council of Ministers session which meets here regularly in February of each year.

Its statement today reaffirmed the "solemn commitment and absolute dedication" of the OAU member states to the total emancipation "of every inch of Africa and the surrounding islands." It also rejected and "vehemently denounced" what it called the "sinister design" to link the independence of Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, though it did not directly name either the United States or South Africa, who hold this position.

However, neither the OAU secretariat nor the committee has so far reacted to the decision announced by France this week that it would no longer take part in future meetings of the "Contact Group" on Namibia, which has been attempting to establish the constitutional grounds leading to that territory's independence. French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said in Paris on Wednesday that his country opposed such linkage and would not meet with the group in future because it could no longer "carry out is mandate honestly." But observers here believed the French position should satisfy the OAU enormously as it has on occasion expressed disappointment with the role of the "Contact Group" — the United States, Canada, Britain, West Germany and France.

The statement declared Africa's "militant solidarity" with the frontline states, particularly Angola and Mozambique, for the "enormous sacrifices" they were forced to make in the cause of the continent.

Finally, it appealed to the international community to redouble its assistance to the frontline states and the national liberation movements in their struggle to uphold the dignity of man.

French Withdrawal From Contact Group 'Welcomed'

AB092045 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] African countries at the United Nations have welcomed France's decision to withdraw from the five-nation Western Contact Group, which is supposed to be trying to settle the conflict in Namibia and bring about its independence. The president of the UN General Assembly, Mr Mohamed Saalum, told the FRENCH NEWS AGENCY that France's position was very well understood by Africa. He said the results of 6 years of work by the group comprising the United States, Britain, Canada, France, and West Germany was negative. He added that the main feature of it has been the action of the United States under the Reagan regime of making Namibian independence conditional on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from northern Angola. French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson pointed out that France opposed such linkage. He said in Paris on Wednesday that France will no longer take part in the group's meeting because the group could not carry out its mandate honestly. Racist South Africa has insisted on the linkage and has refused the UN plan for Namibian independence which the Contact Group finished negotiating last year. The chairman at the United Nations of the southern African frontline states, Tanzania's (Sper Whipa), called the French move positive.

ALGERIA

USSR's Marshal Ogarkov Departs 10 December

LD102024 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov, Soviet first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, left Algeria today following a visit which lasted several days.

The Soviet military delegation was seen off at the airport by Colonel (Mustafa Bilwasit), secretary general of the National Defense Ministry and commander of the Seventh Military District.

Abdelghani Holds Talks With PDRY Foreign Minister

LD120049 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali arrived in Algeria this afternoon for an official visit to our country. He is carrying a message from PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party.

The PDRY minister was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Brother Boualem Bessaiah, minister of information, and by the PDRY ambassador in Algiers.

In a statement at the airport's VIP lounge, the PDRY minister described his visit to Algeria as falling within the framework of the excellent bilateral relations which exist between the two fraternal peoples. He added that the message he is carrying is from President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The note, according to the PDRY minister, is addressed to President Chadli Bendjedid and concerns bilateral relations and the development of the situation in the Arab region.

The PDRY foreign minister also touched upon the development of relations between the two halves of Yemen, stressing that the relations which now exist between them are characterized by clarity and credibility vis-a-vis the realization of the hopes and aspirations of the one Yemeni people.

The PDRY foreign minister was received this afternoon by Brother Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister. The meeting was also attended by the secretary general of the prime ministry, and by the PDRY's ambassador to Algeria.

LIBYA

JANA Notes Imposition of Ban on U.S. Exports

LD102044 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Brussels, Rabi Awal 5, December 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — At a press conference held last night in Brussels, the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said the policies of Libya are in direct contradiction to U.S. goals and policies on several current issues and that the Reagan administration has decided to impose a ban on all U.S. exports to Libya, including irrigation equipment.

Shultz reiterated the Reagan administration's false allegations stating that Libya is participating in terrorism. Thus, Shultz has affirmed the aggressive nature of the U.S. Administration based on hegemony and the use of force. It has also affirmed its flagrant violation of the right of peoples to freedom and liberation.

MAURITANIA

Former Officials Reportedly Under House Arrest

AB101430 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, Dec 10 (AFP) — Two former ministers in Mauritania and a former Mauritanian ambassador have been put under house arrest in their home region, informed sources here said.

They were identified as Colonel Silman Soumare, former fisheries minister, Commissar Mamseou Ly, a former environment minister, and Abdel Keder Camara. The three were accused of "activities likely to harm national unity," the sources said. It was not possible to learn exactly what activities they were accused of, but it was not thought to concern a major plot against the regime of Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala.

The three, who are all of Mauritania's black minority, were long ago pushed out of Mauritanian politics. Colonel Soumare was believed to have been assigned to Wompu, in the southern Guidimakha region, and Commissar Ly to Boghe, in the Brakna region east of the capital Nouakchott.

MOROCCO

U.S. Secretary of State Shultz Pays 3-Day Visit

Arrives 10 Dec

LD102235 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The American secretary of state, George Shultz, began a 3-day visit to Morocco today. He was welcomed at Sale Airport by Minister of State Abder Rahim Bouabid. Mr George Shultz made a statement in which he expressed his gratitude for His Majesty King Hassan II's invitation to visit Morocco. He also highlighted the importance of the talks he will hold with his majesty and with members of the Moroccan Government.

Received by Hassan II

LD112152 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, at the Royal Court this morning. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State 'Abd ar-Rahim

Bouabid, Ahmed Rida Guidirah, adviser to his majesty, Ali Ben Jallun, Morocco's ambassador to the United States, Mr Joseph Reed, U.S. ambassador to Morocco, and some members of the delegation accompanying Mr Shultz.

SUDAN

Foreign Minister Comments on African Policy

JN111127 Khartoum SUNA in English 1000 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Nairobi, 11 Dec (SUNA) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak has welcomed Kenyan call for the expansion of the East African Community to include Sudan and Ethiopia.

Mubarak, speaking to SUNA, said Sudan supports any grouping of neighbouring countries in Africa because it comes in line with the 1980 Lagos economic summit resolutions. "Whenever African countries adopt a policy of coordination and cooperation, they will contribute to the stability and progress of the continent," he said.

Mubarak supported his Kenyan counterpart's viewpoint that political systems in some African countries should not disturb economic cooperation as long as those countries believe in [words indistinct] non interference in others affairs. "We, in Sudan, are not concerned with beliefs of other countries as they are confined to those countries," he said.

He stated Sudan's stance on the importance of avoidance of war among African countries adding that Africa should solve its problems politically for the economic progress and welfare of its people and to find a way out of the imposed economic domination.

The minister said he had conducted talks with the Kenyan assistant foreign minister on how to boost economic cooperation between the two countries. He said his Kenyan counterpart would visit Sudan later for further consultation on the topic. Mubarak also expressed satisfaction over the developing Kenyan-Sudanese relations in all fields.

Air Force Helicopter Crashes 10 Dec; 11 Dead

JN111506 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Dec (SUNA) — A Sudanese Air Force helicopter burst into flames yesterday some 7 km from Abu Na'am, killing three Air Force majors, a sergeant, a technical sergeant, a technical lance corporal, an agricultural assistant to the governor of Blue Nile Province, one civilian, and three female students.

The aircraft was on a routine flight to Khartoum from (Ad-Damazin) in Blue Nile Province, which is in the central region.

A technical team from the People's Armed Forces has left for the scene of the incident to investigate the cause.

The aircraft is an Italian-made [as received] Bell helicopter.

TUNISIA

Reportage on U.S. Secretary of State's Visit

Received by Bourguiba

LD101242 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] At 1130 today, President Habib Bourguiba received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the Republican Palace in Carthage. Prime Minister Mohamad Mzali, Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi, and Mahmoud Mestiri, minister of state attached to the foreign minister, were also present at the meeting.

Following the audience, President Bourguiba invited U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, his wife, the accompanying delegation, and the others present to a luncheon, which was also attended by Minister of National Defense Slaheddine Baly, Minister of Planning Ismail Khalil; Mrs Fathiya Mzali, minister for family affairs and advancement of women [name and title as heard], and Habib Ben Arfah, minister of state attached to the foreign minister in charge of international cooperation.

Meets With Mzali

LD101646 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali received Mr George Shultz this morning in the presence of the Tunisian and U.S. delegations.

A Tunisian-U.S. working meeting was held afterward at the Foreign Ministry, and was jointly presided over by the foreign ministers of the two countries. The session was devoted to a discussion of the Middle East question.

Beji Caid es-Sebsi put forward the Tunisian analysis of this issue. He stressed that the Palestinian question constitutes a complex problem in the Middle East, and he emphasized the need to find [words indistinct] and the need for a more balanced U.S. stance between the Arabs and Israel.

The U.S. secretary of state commented on developments in the entire Arab region. He explained that the U.S. aim has always been to search for peace in the Middle East through negotiation, and not through (?conflict).

The U.S. secretary of state left Tunis for Rabat this afternoon following his brief visit here. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi.

KUNA Cites Mzali's 'Bitter Criticism'

LD101748 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1633 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tunis, 10 Dec (KUNA) — High-level diplomatic sources have described the talks held here today between Tuni

sian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and visiting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as "distinguished by Mzali's complete frankness and bitter criticism of American policy in the Middle East." These sources informed KUNA that the Tunisian prime minister told the American secretary of state that "Washington's policy in the region has placed the moderate Arab countries — linked to the United States by traditional ties of friendship — in an uneviable position before their people."

The same sources claimed that Mzali told Shultz: "What am I, or any politician, worth in his own country if he does not enjoy the support of his people? Thus, to be honest with you, I must be truthful in saying that my people are very upset with the policy pursued by the United States concerning the Palestinian question and the rights of the Palestinian people."

Mzali added: "You negotiated with the Koreans and with the Vietnamese when you were at war with them. Isn't it time to negotiate with the PLO, which the Palestinians and the Arabs still regard as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?"

The diplomatic sources made it clear that the Tunisian prime minister levelled bitter criticism specifically at the recent strategic agreement between the United States and Israel and also at the fact that the American forces in Lebanon are not neutral but are helping one group against another.

Demonstrations Reported

LD101825 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1729 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 10 December (KUNA) — Hundreds of young Tunisian demonstrators met U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz with anti-American chants when he arrived at the government palace today.

The demonstrators cheered the Palestinian revolution and its leader Yasir 'Arafat, and repeated "Palestine is Arab" and "Down with America and Zionism." The demonstrators sang a song which called upon Shultz to return home.

The Tunisian Government allowed this demonstration and another small spontaneous one yesterday evening as an expression of the Tunisian Government and people's support for the Palestinian cause and its dissatisfaction with U.S. support for the Zionist entity at the expense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Es-Sebsi's Parting Remarks Reported

LD101930 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The American secretary of state left Tunis this afternoon for Rabat. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi, who made the following remarks to the U.S. official:

Your visit to Tunisia, which follows that of U.S. Vice President George Bush, first of all represents a landmark on the road of friendship which characterizes our relations and which dictates that we continue regular contacts. This visit has allowed us to resume the frank and friendly dialogue which we began with officials in your country, talks that were characterized this year by their intensity and, we hope, will be (?fruitful) as well. Our talks have, among other things, given us the opportunity to express our profound concern to you at the dangerous turn that our region, and the Middle East as a whole, is passing through. We have done this because we [word indistinct] and for the friendly atmosphere and frankness that have always characterized our relations. It was also due to the fact that we hope to see a positive development of the Palestinian issue [words indistinct] based on a recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and in accord with the noble principles of justice, peace, and freedom in which our country believes. We have also taken this opportunity to express our apprehensions concerning the new ties of coppoeration which were recently established between the United States and Israel. On this subject, Tunisia believes that the establishment of more balanced relations with the various countries of the region would be more (?suitable) for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

ETHIOPIA

Trade Minister Reports on Protocol With USSR

EA102319 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Minister of External Trade Comrade Wollie Chekol has disclosed that a protocol agreement was signed recently covering trade exchange and relations between Socialist Ethiopia and the USSR for 1984. Comrade Wollie said this in a statement he gave today on his return from a 1-week working visit to the USSR at the head of a five-man foreign trade delegation. The trade exchange agreement for 1984 focuses on (?petrol), building and industrial goods, agricultural produce, and other commodities. Comrade Wollie also disclosed that sales and purchasing contracts had been signed to facilitate the trade exchange.

KENYA

Reports on Independence Anniversary Celebrations

Zaire's Mobutu Arrival

AB111235 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1020 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 11 Dec (AZAP) — Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the Zairian Republic, arrived in Nairobi (Kenya) from Kinshasa at 1445 local time (1245 GMT) yesterday.

The MPR founding chairman was met on arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta Airport by Kenyan President arap Moi, his vice president, and the Zairian community in Kenya.

Leader Mobutu, who is attending the 20th independence anniversary celebrations of this brotherly country, is expected to seize the opportunity provided by this visit to hold discussions with his other African counterparts who are also attending the celebrations.

According to (?today's) program, there will be a parade at 1100 to be followed at 1900 by a dinner party and a message to the nation by President Moi at 2200.

Sudan's Numayri Arrival

JN101734 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Nairobi, Dec 10 (SUNA) — President Numayri and accompanying delegation arrived today to participate in the Kenyan independence anniversary.

At touchdown 4:45 pm local Kenyan time President Daniel arap Moi received him with the other Kenyan high ranking officials. President Numayri had left Cairo after meeting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to attend the 20th anniversary of the Kenyan independence.

Presidents of Djibouti, Uganda, Tanzania and Somalia have so far arrived to attend the ceremonies.

Numayri-Barre Meeting

JN111130 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Nairobi, 11 Dec (SUNA) — President Numayri and Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre today discussed bilateral relations African Horn situation, Mideast crisis and other matters of mutual concern. The two presidents are here to attend the Kenyan celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the Kenyan independence.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak and Sudanese ambassador to Nairobi while Colonel Musa Rabile the minister of the presidential affairs and Trade Minister Mohamed Omar Jama attended from the Somali side.

Nyerere-Mengistu Meeting

EA120455 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1900 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpt] President Nyerere has commended efforts done by the current chairman of the OAU, the Ethiopian leader Ndugu Mengistu Haile Mariam, to find a solution of the question of Chad based on the principles of national reconciliation. Mwalimu made the commendation when he was briefed by the OAU chairman on current African developments and efforts being done by the organization on the problems of Chad and Western Sahara.

Briefing newsmen on the talks, which took place at the Intercontinental Hotel, the foreign minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, said the OAU's efforts on Chad looked more promising than the question of Western Sahara.

Mwalimu, who arrived in Nairobi yesterday to attend the 20th anniversary celebrations of Kenya's independence, was also briefed by the SWAPO leader Ndugu Sam Nujoma on the current developments inside Namibia.

Kaunda-Mengistu Meeting

MB120715 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] His Excellency President Dr Kaunda, who is in Nairobi to attend Kenya's 20th independence anniversary celebrations, yesterday met Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and assured him of Zambia's continued love and admiration of the good things he has done for his country and the African Continent as a whole.

Speaking from his hotel in the continental suite when the Ethiopian leader called on him, Dr Kaunda said that Colonel Mengistu, who is also chairman of the OAU, was doing great things for Africa.

STANDARD Reports Agreement Signed With USSR

EA081224 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 8 Dec 83 p 3

[Report by unidentified *STANDARD* reporter: "Kenya, Soviets Sign Agreements"]

[Text] Kenya, concerned with the present growing tension between superpowers, yesterday appealed to them to come to a roundtable dialogue to create greater understanding and avoid a holocaust.

Foreign Minister Elijah Mwangale told the Russian ambassador to Kenya Dr Aleksandr D. Chikvaidze, [name as published] we are really frightened because what we are building today, while it is meant for posterity, may never be seen. The minister added we don't want to be caught in a holocaust because of the tension. Mr Mwangale said this at his office, when signing a new plan for cultural and scientific cooperation between Kenya and the Soviet Union. Dr Chikvaidze signed on behalf of his government.

The minister said Kenya and the Soviet Union enjoyed cordial relations. The new Nyanza provincial general hospital built with Russian assistance in Kisumu, was an important project, which served both Kenyan and Ugandan patients. Dr Chikvaidze announced that the Soviet Red Cross had dispatched to Kenya 1-1/2 tonnes of medicines as a gift to the hospital. Kenya, will receive 60 scholarships plus two doctors whose full expenses will be met by the Soviet Union and six other doctors who will be working on contract in Kenyan hospitals.

UGANDA

Obote Meets With Kenyan, Zambian Delegations

EA091224 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] President Apollo Milton Obote has met the Rwandese, Kenyan, and Zambian high-powered delegations which are currently in the country to attend the funeral of the late chief of staff of the Uganda Army, Major General David Oyite Ojok.

The Rwandese delegation was led by the deputy chief of state of the Rwandese Army, Colonel Laurent (Seruguga), and was accompanied by the Rwandese ambassador to Uganda, Mr Nduwayezu. Col Laurent delivered Major General Habyarimana's condolences to President Milton Obote on the death of Maj Gen Oyite Ojok and said that the people of Rwanda join Uganda in mourning.

The Kenyan delegation was led by the minister of state in the office of the president, Mr Ole Tipis, who delivered a special message to President Apollo Milton Obote. The contents of the message were not disclosed. Mr Ole Tipis told Dr Obote that the people of Kenya share the sorrow of the loss of a gallant soldier with Ugandans. Dr Obote told the Kenyan delegation that the late David Oyite Ojok played a big role in bringing about stability and cooperation among the neighboring countries. The Kenyan delegation and the president also discussed matters pertaining to the regional cooperation between the three countries, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Mr Ole Tipis assured Dr Obote that Kenya will do their utmost to help Uganda where possible, for the two countries are inseparable.

The Zambian delegation was led by the commander of the National Army of Zambia. Dr Obote assured the delegation that there was no truth in the rumor that the helicopter was shot down.

At a luncheon he hosted in honor of the guests earlier President Obote said that many of them were comrades in arms with the late David Oyite Ojok, and others were closely associated in many areas. The president said that during the late David Oyite Ojok's lifetime he spared no effort in making friends in Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, and Zaire. He informed the guests that the late Oyite Ojok was very free and frank in his (?concepts). In the meantime, the Egyptian, Tanzanian, Zambian, and Sudanese, and Kenyan delegations have already arrived in the country to attend the funeral of the late David Oyite Ojok.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

AFP: Opposition Calls for Kolingba Resignation

AB092215 Paris AFP in French 1122 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Cotonou, 9 Dec (AFP) — The Ubangi Patriotic Front — Labor Party [FPO-PT] (a CAR opposition party) has called for the resignation of General Kolingba, CAR president, and for the "immediate return to civil rule" in the country.

In a statement handed to AFP in Friday in Cotonou (Benin), Dr Barthelemy Yangongo Boganda, the FPO-PT secretary general, says that for the party's Central Committee (which held a clandestine meeting in Bangui a few weeks ago), the "only condition for the return to normal political life in the CAR is the resignation of the illegal military rulers and the establishment of a democratic regime emanating from the Central African masses."

Gen Kolingba's regime "has failed at all levels, especially on the economic front," the FPO-PT Central Committee points out.

The FPO-PT also demands "the immediate lifting of the ban on political parties, respect for the fundamental democratic, political, and trade union rights," and the holding of new presidential elections.

Lastly, the FPO-PT [words indistinct] of the release of political prisoners on 1 September 1983, demands that all political detainees be freed immediately and without condition. It also demands that an end be put to "arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture, and summary executions."

CHAD

AFP: Goukouni Remarks Dash Reconciliation Hopes

AB091750 Paris AFP in French 1458 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 9 Dec (AFP) — The CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY (ATP, official) stated on Friday that the recent statements made by Goukouni Oueddei "unexpectedly dashed the hope" that prevailed in Chad since the announcement of the national reconciliation conference.

On Wednesday evening, it will be recalled, Mr Goukouni declared that the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT), of which he is the chairman, would be the sole legitimate and legal government representing the country during the national reconciliation negotiations initially scheduled for 21 December in Addis Ababa.

ATP said that the declaration coincides with the end of the 6-day visit to Addis Ababa by Major Jallud, the second in command in Libya. The agency accused Libya — "worried to see the OAU really playing its role" — of trying to "mix up the cards." However, the Chadian agency reaffirmed the determination of Hissein Habre's government to go to Addis Ababa as the country's sole legal and legitimate government. It also recalled that it is in the hope of achieving a real and lasting reconciliation that the Chadian Government asked for a postponement of this conference.

Radio Chad on its part stressed that claims by the (?GUNT) leader are "baseless," and considered that it was the duty of the OAU to "to put Goukouni in his proper place which is among its opponents."

CONGO

President Receives Goukouni Envoy 9 December

AB092056 Paris AFP in French 1517 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Brazzaville, 9 Dec (AFP) — Mr Mahamat Iulihimou, a special envoy of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) of Chad led by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, was received in audience on Friday by Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, it was announced by Radio Congo.

According to the radio, although the contents of the talks were not disclosed, the two men probably discussed the upcoming Addis Ababa reconciliation meeting scheduled for 21 December.

Brazzaville Hails Labor Party Deliberations

AB091521 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Summary] The most important national news this evening concerns the end of the deliberations of the 14th session of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party. The conclusions reached by the meeting demonstrate that our country's political leaders fully assumed their responsibilities. They are conclusions which cannot deceive anyone.

The chairman of the Central Committee, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, personnally congratulated the committee members for the work accomplished. In fact, the final communique indicates that the results achieved are completely positive in all respects. "In their execution of the national development plan, the laboring masses are working hard and with convincing enthusiasm to accomplish the various tasks despite the crisis which has somewhat interfered with the implementation of our 5-year national development plan. This enthusiasm is in itself a concomitant if not the reflection of the way the nation's affairs have been conducted since the movement of 5 February 1979 [when President Joachin Yhombi Opango was replaced by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso]." In fact, our people's firm determination to meet the challenge is being confirmed every day thanks to the prevailing calm and the return of confidence.

"The present stage of the execution of the plan sufficiently demonstrates that we have made progress in the fields of management and control. This enables us to measure at any time the progress made, to review our actions, and correct our mistakes if any. The new situation created throughout the national territory by the construction of roads, bridges, ports, airports, telecommunication networks, water supply projects, railroads, and stor-

age facilities is convincing proof that we have made great progress in the reconquest of our national territory." [as heard]

"The satisfaction of our people and their confidence in the ideals of our revolution constitute important achievements and, in the present peaceful atmosphere, the party's third ordinary congress to be held 21-31 July 1984 will be successful. Already a call has been made to all the competent elements in the country. To be sure, the development of the internal situation added to that of the external situation — particularly the economic situation — compels us to make certain corrections. This is a fact. However, the results of the execution of the plan show that we have already achieved our main objectives. These are reasons for satisfaction." We can feel satisfied and optimistic as far as the future is concerned. This was the conclusion reached by the Central Committee. "Out of the capital budget amounting to 129.455 billion francs, an amount of 88.371 billion was spent as of 30 October 1983. On the whole, the most important projects have been realized in accordance with the pre-established program. Most of the economic recovery projects have been financed." "The documents relating to the plan have revealed the weak points in our economy and particularly the fluctuating character of our oil resources, our administration's main source of revenue." It was the awareness that a serious reduction in these oil revenues would result in an excessive running into debt which could finally seriously affect the smooth execution of our development program that led the government to include in the plan a number of very strict measures.

GABON

Belgian Prince Concludes Visit; Communique Issued

AB120816 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Prince Albert of Belgium left Libreville yesterday morning at the end of his 5-day visit to Gabon. During his stay in Gabon he was granted an audience by El-Hadj Omar Bongo, the president of the republic. Prince Albert also conferred with Prime Minister Leon Mebiane. His royal highness also held talks with many cabinet members including Foreign Minister Martin Bongo. The visit was marked by a final communique. Prince Albert concluded his visit with a press conference. In addition, he visited Ogoue last Friday where he laid the foundation stone for [words indistinct] of the Trans-Gabonese Railroad. Present at the ceremony was Deputy Prime Minister Mr Georges Rawiri.

Prime Minister Leaves for Kenyan Celebrations

AB092105 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Leon Mebiane left Libreville this morning for Nairobi, Kenya. There, Mr Mebiane will represent the head of state and the Gabonese nation at the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of Kenya's independence.

Dissident Denounces Government, Benin on Expulsion

AB092005 Paris AFP in French 1113 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, 9 Dec (AFP) — Dr Alam Sibom, secretary general of the "Popular Movement for the Liberation of Gabon" and a Gabonese political refugee who had been living in Cotonou for 2 years, asserted in Lagos on Thursday that he was beaten up and detained by the Beninese police services before being expelled from Benin a week ago.

Dr Alam Sibom, who said that his movement was created in July 1977 and is close to the Movement for National Recovery [Morena] opposed to Bongo's government, told AFP in Lagos that he was arrested for the first time on 9 November then rearrested on 25 November by the Beninese police.

During his second arrest he was detained in prison until 29 November, the date when he was expelled with his wife, his young brother and a 5-month old baby, who were all led to the Nigerian border in a Benin police van. It was on 29 November that Mr Sibom's expulsion came into effect. Mr Sibom "denounced and condemned the agreement between the Beninese and Gabonese regimes to exchange political refugees living in their respective countries."

Mr Sibom also called on the Revolutionary Alliance of African People to condemn the Beninese regime's [words indistinct] as well as the entire leftist movement in the West." He also called on "the Gabonese people and all national progressive forces to mobilize themselves further within the Morena to unseat the retrograde regime of Libreville."

Finally Mr Sibom expressed his indignation at the prospects of an official visit by Gabonese President Omar Bongo to Paris and called on the French leftists "to oppose that visit."

GHANA

Statement Calls for Observance of Human Rights

AB111018 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Ghana today called for the observance of the provisions of the international instruments on human rights to enable all people to enjoy fundamental freedom. The call is contained in a statement issued to mark the 35th anniversary of the declaration of Universal Human Rights Day of the United Nations. The statement denounced the apartheid and colonialist policies of South Africa and its repeated acts of aggression against neighboring states. It observed that although much has been achieved through international cooperation in dealing with the issue of human rights, gross violations of fundamental freedoms are still taking place in many parts of the world, and South Africa is the country of such violations because of its unacceptable policy of racial discrimination.

The Ghana-UN Students and Youth Association, GUNSA, the Ghana National Committee on Disarmament and Human Rights, and the Democratic Youth League of Ghana have issued separate statements in commemoration of the day.

The GUNSA statement called on the United Nations to work for the promotion of human rights on a global scale to end the arms race and the (?great) tension in the world for the establishment of a new international economic order. In its statement, the Ghana National Committee on Disarmament and Human Rights condemned the alliance between South Africa and the United States for delaying Namibia's independence. It also condemned the deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing nuclear missiles in Europe which has led to the break of peaceful negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the control of the production and use of nuclear weapons. The Democratic Youth League of Ghana said efforts to maximize the enjoyment of human rights will be meaningless in a war-torn, arms-escalating world. It therefore joined the world peace movement in the condemnation of the arms escalation.

In another statement, the Ghana Committee Against Apartheid commended France's decision to withdraw from the five-nation Western Contact Group on Namibia. The Committee hoped that France's withdrawal would make the other members — the United States, Britain, Canada, and West Germany — re-examine their own positions on South Africa's insistence that Namibia's independence should be made conditional on Cuban withdrawal from neighboring Angola. The Ghana National Committee Against Apartheid said the Namibian question has dragged on for too long and France's action should lead to some positive developments in the controversy.

LIBERIA

Envoy Expelled From USSR Returns to Monrovia

AB091310 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Liberian Ambassador to the USSR Christopher Ricks is back home following the expulsion from Monrovia of the Soviet ambassador, Antoliy Ulanov, last month. Ambassador Ulanov was declared persona non grata by the Liberian Government and given 48 hours to leave the country because of acts incompatible with his diplomatic status. Speaking at a reception held in his honor by Foreign Minister Ernest Eastman, Ambassador Ricks stressed the good relationship which had existed between him and the government and people of the Soviet Union during his tour of duty in Moscow. He explained that he was not expelled by the Soviet authorities, but rather said that a suggestion was put to him by the Soviet Ministry for him to leave, which would be in the best interest of both countries.

Major Luo Details Coup Plotters' Plans

AB111310 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] In less than a week, one of the principal suspects in the alleged coup plot to overthrow the People's Redemption Council [PRC] Government has come out with another development. Major Kalonko Luo, speaking yesterday to members of the Liberian press at the National Security Agency, confessed that if the coup had been successful, three top government officials would have been executed immediately. He named the three officials as the minister of state for presidential affairs, Major John G. Rancy, Defense Minister Major Gray D. Allison, and the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Lieutenant General Henry Dubar.

Maj Luo said the three were to be executed because they were instrumental in the confusion which continued between the head of state and former Commanding General Thomas G. Quiwonkpa. The former assistant agriculture minister said that the major motive of the November coup plot was to immediately return the country to civilian rule.

Maj Luo said the former commanding general had been against the continuation of military rule in Liberia and that was his very reason for engaging in the alleged coup plot. In his allegation further, he said Head of State Samuel Kanyon Doe was to be tried along with other top PRC members on charges of nepotism, tribalism, cuts and delay of government salaries, secret killings, and mismanagement of the economy. Maj Luo continued in his confession that during a meeting held at Mr Quiwonkpa's late father's farm, it was discussed that a raid would be carried out

on the Liberian-American-Swedish Minerals Company mines in Nimba County, and the Ganta-Mawuo highway and Tapeta-Shiedi highway were to be blocked. At the same time, electricity in the Monrovia area was to be cut off in order to successfully launch the coup plot. He also revealed that a speech was prepared with the aid of the late General Robert Sye, Mrs Samuel Dokye, and Mrs D.K. Woseley, to be read by Gen Quiwonkpa on the national radio and television following the alleged coup plot success.

NIGER

Kountche Denies Accusing Libya in Coup Attempt

AB091235 Paris AFP in French 1106 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Niamey, 9 Dec (AFP) — President Seyni Kountche of Niger said in Niamey on Thursday that he had never accused "this or that" country in connection with the abortive coup d'etat against him on 6 October, while he was attending the Franco-African summit conference in Vittel, France. The Niger president made this clarification after a report of an interview he granted in Cairo claimed that he talked about his "suspicion" of the Libyan secret service in the "manipulation" of the coup plotters. In a press conference given on his return from Egypt and Saudi Arabia, President Kountche added that "in the present state of investigation," it would not be proper to accuse "this or that" country. "At the appropriate time, if we have to accuse some countries or some individuals, we will publicly announce this to the Niger people," and not "in a foreign country," he said.

Talking about his trip to Egypt, the Niger president expressed satisfaction over the "bright prospects" which have opened for Niger-Egypt cooperation. Concerning the nuclear cooperation agreement signed by the two countries on Tuesday, the head of state specified that the quantity and the timetable for the delivery will be "the subject for subsequent agreements."

General Kountche stressed that his country intends to pursue a "long-term" policy in the management of its mineral resources, whether with Egypt or with "any other country." He did not give further details.

He said his talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia centered mainly on cooperation between their two countries, and he hinted that this cooperation will soon be given a new "impetus." The African head of state announced that a Saudi Fund mission is expected in Niger in early January.

On the political future of Niger, President Kountche declared: "Like any developing regime, it is obvious that this regime will develop toward a constitution," that is, toward a written constitution that will "define the powers" of the state of Niger. This will be done after the constitution (to be drawn up by the National Development Council) had been accepted by the people of Niger. General Kountche declined to comment on France's decision to withdraw from the Contact Group on Namibia.

NIGERIA

State Police Extend Ban on Public Meetings

AB110825 Lagos NAN in English 0805 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Mina. Dec. 11 (NAN) — The Niger Police Command has extended the ban on public meetings and assemblies throughout the state for 14 days. The spokesman for the police in the state, Mr J.D. Adeniyi, said that the 14 days extension was necessary so that the peaceful atmosphere in the state could continue. He disclosed that no permit would be issued by the police for any type of meeting or assembly within the 14 days. Mr Adeniyi however stated that the ban did not affect meetings in private houses and student meetings if confined to their campus. The police spokesman reminded the public that the selling or displaying of firearms during the Christmas and New Year was prohibited, that any persons found with firearms would be arrested and prosecuted.

Former Commerce Minister Suspended From NPN

AB080925 Lagos NAN in English 0850 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Lagos, 8 Dec (NAN) — The national secretariat of the NPN [National Party of Nigeria] today announced the suspension of three members of the Kano branch of the party including former Commerce Minister Alhaji Bello Maitoma Yusufu, for anti-party activities.

Addressing a news conference in Lagos, the national secretary of the party, Alhaji Uba Ahmed, said that the two other members suspended in the branch were Alhaji Mohammed Maude, and Alhaji Tanko Yakasai, adding that the decision was based on the reports of the committees which investigated disputes within the party in the state.

Alhaji Uba said that although the suspension was for six months, it could be reviewed subject to good conduct. The national secretariat, he said, had declared the state congress of the party recently held in Hadejia as unconstitutional, null and void.

The NPN secretary said that the decision of the Kano executive committee to suspend Alhaji A.D. Garba, Alhaji Mahmud Gashash, Alhaji Inuwa Tangaza, and Alhaji Adamu Danakbo had however been rescinded by the NPN national census and the secretariat.

"The party wishes our supporters to know that the only legal state executive committee in Kano is the one constitutionally elected in 1982 which is being led by Alhaji Nuru Alkali as chairman and Alhaji Bashir Alhatu as its secretary," he said.

Alhaji Uba said that the deputy state chairman of the party in Imo Chief B.B. Apugo, had been suspended for 12 months for anti-party activities. Also suspended are the party's state secretary, Chief S. Iwuchukwu and financial secretary, Francis

Aguma. He said that the decisions were taken to infuse discipline into the party and ensure respect for law and order.

Gowon Rejects Suggestion of NYSC Service

AB091155 Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, Dec 9 (AFP) — Former Nigerian Head of State General Yakubu Gowon, who arrived here Monday on a brief visit to his country after more than eight years exile in Britain, said he would not perform the one-year national service mandatory for all Nigerian graduates.

The retired army officer, who used his exile period to study political science and will be defending his doctorate thesis next year, told newsmen at the airport here Wednesday that it would be an "insult" for anybody to suggest that he should serve in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme which he introduced in 1973 when he was in power.

He was ousted in a military coup in 1975 and the succeeding government expunged a 30-year age limit clause, which would have exempted the 49-year-old general from serving in the scheme. There had been speculation that the former head of state might perform the service when he finally returns to the country next year.

The NYSC scheme was designed to foster understanding and unity among Nigeria's diverse ethnic groups. Participants (more than 140,000 people have gone through the scheme) are usually posted to states other than their own for the service, which involves military-type orientation, community service and conventional employment for which a uniform monthly allowance of 200 naira (about 260 dollars) is paid.

While General Gowon expressed satisfaction that "ten years after the scheme was established, people still talked about it." He said that "it is not a good thing to ask a person that initiated a scheme to serve in it." He argued that he had served Nigeria as a soldier for 21 years, nine as military head of state (1966 to 1975, when he was overthrown by General Murtala Muhammad, for whose later assassination he was indicted but then amnestied by President Shehu Shagari in 1981).

General Gowon's current visit, which has taken him to Lagos and now northern Kaduna, will finally take him to his home state of Central Plateau.

SENEGAL

Spain's Gonzalez Meets With Diouf, Comments

AB101235 Dakar Domestic Service in Fren h 2000 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Spanish prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, made a stopover in Dakar today. He was welcomed on arrival by Moustapha Niasse, minister of state for foreign affairs, and by Djibo Ka, minister of information, telecommunications, and relations with Parliament. Felipe Gonzalez, who is on his way to Buenos Aires for the investiture of the new Argentine president, was immediately received at a luncheon by the head of state. Felipe Gonzalez spoke to Tidjan Barri.

[Begin Gonzalez recording in French] We discussed those issues that you might expect us to talk about. There are no bilateral problems between Senegal and Spain. As for world issues, we reviewed the problem of indebtedness among Third World nations and the rise of the dollar. We discussed our relations at the political level, that is, on the possible development of democratic socialism in Africa. We talked about the problem of Western Sahara, South Africa, and that of Chad. The positions of our governments are identical on world issues. We also discussed the situation in Latin America. These are the topics that I examined with the president. I have been invited by the president to pay a visit to Senegal. It has been my long-standing wish to visit this country. [end recording]

TOGO

French President's Adviser Arrives 9 December

AB092020 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Guy Penne, President Francois Mitterrand's adviser for African and Malagasy affairs, arrived in Lome this morning for a visit to Togo, which he is continuing in Kara. At Pya in Koza Prefecture, Guy Penne is expected to meet with the head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema.

The French presidential adviser for African and Malagasy affairs was met this morning in Lome by Gbenyon Amegboh, member of the Central Committee and minister delegate to the Presidency in charge of information, posts, and telecommunications, and by the French ambassador to Togo, Michel Chatelais.

Guy Penne's visit to Togo is part of an African tour which he began several days ago. He has already visited Gabon and Angola.

Delivers Message to Eyadema

AB101035 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Guy Penne, adviser to the French president on African and Malagasy affairs, paid a visit to Togo yesterday, during which he delivered a verbal message from President Francois Mitterrand to President Gnassingbe Eyadema in Kara.

On his arrival in Kara from Lome, Guy Penne was accorded a very warm and enthusiastic welcome from the people of the La Coza region, who, through songs and dancing, praised the excellent relations between France and Togo and the solid ties of friendship between President Francois Mitterrand and President Gnassingbe Eyadema. Guy Penne was received in audience by the founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT] at the RPT house in Kara. During a working luncheon, the two statesmen discussed bilateral cooperation and the upcoming visit of French Minister of Defense Charles Hernu to Togo.

Shortly before his departure at the Niamtougou airport, Guy Penne said that French-Togolese relations are excellent, as are those between the two heads of state. According to the French president's adviser, President Eyadema asked him to convey his views on the African political situation to the president of the French Republic. France, Guy Penne stated, has decided to suspend its membership in the Contact Group on Namibia. Mr Penne said he discussed this subject with President dos Santos and that, on the whole, all the African heads of state have asked the French president to continue France's membership in the group. According to Guy Penne, France now considers the duties assigned to this group as terminated. Meetings by the group are no longer necessary, and since the Contact Group has submitted its report, it is now up to other organizations to that its proposals are implemented. France believes that it is no longer useful to awaken the slumbering group.

Mr Penne noted that he has already met with the Angolan president, who informed him of the recent meeting of frontline states. The adviser to the French president on African and Malagassy affairs reviewed France's position on the Namibian issue. France rejects the linkage between the Cuban presence in Angola, which concerns Angola's sovereignty, and the solution to the Namibian independence issue, which is an international problem.

Guy Penne was welcomed and seen off at the Niamtougou airport by Kpotivi Lacle, member of the RPT Political Bureau and minister of the interior, as well as by local officials.

Former Minister, Others Under Detention
AB090955 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Council of Ministers met yesterday at the State House under the chairmanship of President Gnassingbe Eyadema, foun ding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally. The minister of the interior briefed those present on a police operation intended to strengthen security in our country, where for some time now acts of banditry and robbery have been on the increase. The operation, mounted on 16 November 1983, led to the arrest of a gang of five persons belonging to a network of criminals, and the confiscation of a weapon and ammunition which they used when they wanted to carry out holdups in Togo or elsewhere.

The five are: Eby Codjo Divor and Koffi Modive Savi de Tove, Togolese nationals; Hasan Timah, a Ghanaian; Dieng Moustapha, a Senegalese; and Komlar Fahad, a Lebanese. The weapon and the ammunition belong to Savi de Tove, former minister of justice and father of Koffi Modive Savi de Tove. The weapon, which is banned, as well as the ammunition, were kept illegally by Savi de Tove. The members of the gang and Mr de Tove are being held by the security services for questioning, as a second weapon also belonging to Mr de Tove has not been yet been found.

In the face of such a situation, and pending a clarification of this matter, the government has made it a point to warn both nationals and aliens that the 17-year period of peace which has prevailed in Togo can never be the subject of any sinister deal, and that all those who engage in activities likely to jeopardize our precious achievements will be punished with great rigor.

ANGOLA

Presidential Decrees Reshuffle Cabinet Positions

MB120600 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola has carried out a government reshuffle through decrees published yesterday. In accordance with the decrees, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos relieved Comrades Evaristu Domingos Kimba of the post of the provincial commissioner of Luanda, Artur Vidal Gomes — Kumbi de Azapo [nom de guerre] — of the post of the minister of agriculture, and Fernando Faustino Muteka of the post of minister of transport and communications. The Angolan head of state also relieved Julio Artur de Morais of the post of deputy minister of agriculture, Julio de Almeida of the post of deputy minister of transport, and Mariano Garcia Puku of the post of provincial commissioner of Huila and chairman of the Regional Military Council of the fifth region. Finally, he relieved Rafael Sapelinha Sambalanga of the post of the provincial commisioner of Namibe.

In other decrees the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, appointed Comrades Evaristu Domingos Kimba to the post of minister of agriculture, Manuel Bernardo de Sousa to the post of the minister of transport and communications, Carlos Eduardo Ferreira Neto to the post of deputy minister of construction, and Mariano Garcia Puku to the post of provincial commissioner of Luanda. Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos also appointed Comrade Rafael Sapelinha Sambalanga to the post of provincial commissioner of Huila and chairman of the Regional Military Council of the fifth region, and Comrade Fernando Faustino Muteka to the post of the provincial commissioner of Namibe and member of the Regional Military Council of the fifth region.

Dos Santos Receives French Presidential Adviser

AB091207 Luanda ANGOP in French 1055 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Luanda, 9 Dec (ANGOP) — Jose Eduardo dos Santos, MPLA-LABOR Party president and head of state, granted an audience yesterday afternoon to Guy Penne, adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand for African affairs. The French envoy conveyed a personal message from President Mitterrand to the Angolan head of state.

Yesterday Guy Penne, who arrived in Luanda on Wednesday, held talks with Angolan Finance Minister Matin Augusto Texeira de Matos and with Secretary of State for Cooperation Carlos Fernandes. On Wednesday he met Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge and Planning Minister Lopo do Nascimento.

During the various talks with Angolan officials, President Mitterrand's adviser examined with his hosts matters touching on strengthening cooperation between the People's Republic of Angola and France.

Frontline News Agencies Sign Agreements

MI01228 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] A cooperation agreement between the Angolan and Zambian news agencies was signed in Luanda yesterday afternoon by Jose Ameno Abrantes, ANGOP director, and (Zana Diame), second secretary of the Zambian Embassy in Angola. Working protocols between news agencies of the frontline states were also signed in Angola yesterday. The agencies' directors, who met in Luanda 7-9 December with the objective of reviewing, consolidating, and promoting their cooperation, appealed to ANGOP to urgently establish services in English [words indistinct] frontline agencies, assigning journalists from the ANC of South Africa and SWAPO.

They also recommended an increase in news coverage of the activities of national liberation movements. The directors of news agencies of the frontline states condemned the destabilization of southern African states by South Africa. They also demanded an immediate withdrawal of the racist South African troops from Namibia and southern Angola. They hailed the increasing struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa as well as the 27th anniversary of the founding of the MPLA and the sixth anniversary of its transformation into a labor party.

UNITA Reports Capture of FAPLA Barracks

MB111158 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 11 Dec 83

[War communique issued in Angola on 29 November 1983 by the chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola]

[Text] The UNITA offensive against Russians, Cubans, and a handful of national renegades continues. At dawn on 29 November 1983 our forces launched an assault on and captured the barracks of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] at Alto Chicapa in Lunda Province. A total of 25 FAPLA elements were killed and 11 others captured, including two second lieutenants, (Ernesto Jamba) and (Yala), the latter a member of the state security. Some 150 civilians were freed, and 53 small arms as well as 82-mm mortars and a B-10 cannon were captured. The attack was filmed by a British television team. Also present was a reputable Portuguese journalist.

The triumphant MPLA communiques are mere fantasy. We challenge the MPLA to invite independent journalists and not ones such as those of *AFRIQUE-ASIE* to confirm their successes in the provinces affected by civil war.

The struggle triumphs! United we will win!

Issued in Angola on 29 November 1983, year of anti-Cuban campaign.

Signed: Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of General Staff

BOTSWANA

President Issues Message on Human Rights Day

MB101249 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, said today that a political philosophy that propagates the superiority of one human race over another should not be allowed to continue unchallenged. Dr Masire, who was referring to the apartheid system in South Africa, said this in a message today marking Human Rights Day, today, 10 December. He said the denial of freedom and equality in South Africa was a direct result of the apartheid system.

Earlier the president had said that in southern Africa the record of human rights violations was as old as the universal declaration of human rights itself, considering that the apartheid system in South Africa was institutionalized in 1948. The president said that it is now some 35 years since the international community solemnly declared 10 December Human Rights Day, and yet the human race continues to suffer hunger and disease, to endure persecution and oppression, and to court war and annihilation. The president said: As we in Botswana continue to enjoy the fundamental rights and freedoms, we should reflect on this day over the plight of those to whom these are still distant dreams to come true. He called on the Batswana to remember that these people's plight impinges on the well-being of the Batswana and on that of the international community as a whole.

LESOTHO

Prime Minister on ANC, RSA, Ties With East

MB091942 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, The Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, has pledged that Lesotho will continue to receive ANC refugees. The prime minister was speaking today at a big rally held at the statue of King Moshoeshoe I. The rally had been organized by the Lesotho Peace and Solidarity Committee [LPSC] in remembrance of the 42 people massacred last December by the SADF [South African Defense Force] when it raided Maseru. Emphasizing the resolve of the Government of Lesotho to receive and protect victims of South African racism, Dr Jonathan said that the people of Lesotho were satisfied with receiving ANC and that the refugees had not violated conditions of their asylum in Lesotho. The prime minister said that as long as refugees abided by conditions of their asylum they would continue to be welcomed in Lesotho. He said Lesotho's position on the question of accepting South African refugees was one of the principles which could not be sacrificed.

Reaffirming that there were no ANC military bases in Lesotho, Dr Jonathan said that the country had an irrevocable duty to receive victims of racist persecution. He said that ANC bases were not in Lesotho but in South Africa. This was why, he continued, even after ANC members had been massacred in Lesotho, and after most of them had voluntarily left the country, the incidence of bombings in South Africa has escalated. The prime minister said that what the ANC in South Africa was fighting for was essentially the same as what the Boers in South Africa and the Americans in America had fought for against British, considering this fact. And he said it was absurd to describe the ANC and its leadership as terrorists, because they were demanding their legitimate rights, towards which white South Africa had closed all doors.

He challenged the South African Government to release Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders being incarcerated in South African jails so that the black people of South Africa could say whether they were terrorists or their ethnic leaders. The prime minister rejected the United States of America's policy of constructive engagement, which he said was accelerating matters in South Africa. He equally dismissed as a sham South Africa's so-called new constitutional dispensation, and observed that no meaningful reform could be realized within the framework of oppression. He said that Lesotho and Africa were anxiously waiting to see the final reaction of South African Indians and Coloreds to the new constitution, and he observed that they should have rejected it outright.

Dr Jonathan also welcomed the decision by France to withdraw from the Western Contact Group of Namibia and said that the struggle had proved to be a sham. Calling on Africans to be vigilant and to close their ranks, Dr Jonathan said that the enemy was using the old tactic to divide and rule. He added that the solution to our problems lay in our unity, and he said that divisions gave the enemy access into our ranks.

Referring to his trips to the socialist countries and the subsequent establishment of embassies in Lesotho by some of these countries, Dr Jonathan said that agents of imperialism and racism had tried to antagonize him with Lesotho's Christians by appealing to cheap anticommunist sentiments. However, he said, the people of Lesotho had refused to be hoodwinked, and they had continued in the past to shower him with Christian presents like Bibles and rosaries. He said that instead of bringing communism from these countries as alleged, he had brought technical assistance for agriculture and for construction from the DPRK. Dr Jonathan said that Western countries were against the establishment in Lesotho of embassies by the socialist countries, particularly by the DPRK, against which the Boers had also expressed a great deal of resentment.

Today's rally, organized by the LPSC, was attended by several thousand people, including the speaker of the National Assembly, directors, judges of the high court, intellectuals, civil servants, and workers. Contributions collected from the rally towards the fund for victims of South African aggression totalled over 3,000 maluti.

MADAGASCAR

Assembly President Receives Soviet Journalists

MB091439 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Yesterday at the Simbazaza Palace Mr Lucien Andrianarahinjaka, president of the People's National Assem-

bly, received the delegation of Soviet journalists which has been visiting us for some days now. Talks centered on the responsibility of the National People's Assembly toward the state within the framework of the Malagasy revolution, the role of information in this field, efforts for improving the national economic situation, as well as Madagascar's role in relation to all nations, particularly to help achieve the safeguarding of peace in the world. On this topic the president of the People's National Assembly recalled that President Didier Ratsiraka has suggested holding an international conference in Antananarivo, which would discuss transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. The Soviet Union has agreed to attend such a conference and, in turn, Madagascar has always supported Soviet initiatives to maintain peace in the world. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador to Madagascar, Mr Leonid Musatov, and by the president of the Journalists Trade Union, Mr (Andomanatema Celestin).

Also yesterday the delegation of Soviet journalists was received by the president of the executive committee [words indistinct] of Antananarivo, Mr (Lacoutroa Anditila), who reviewed the tasks and responsibilities of the decentralized collectives as administrative structures. He also spoke about our capital, which is the mirror of our country, similar to all other world capitals. Mr (Lacoutroa) then talked about the efforts by the constituency to spruce up our capital.

MOZAMBIQUE

Cultural-Scientific Accord Signed With GDR

MB0920130 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] A working plan within the framework of cultural and scientific cooperation from 1983-1984 was signed in Maputo today between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the GDR. The document contains a number of areas of cooperation between the two countries and it involves the Mozambique Ministries of Education and Culture and Information and the GDR Ministries of National Education, Higher and Technical Education, and Culture. The main course of action to be developed in the future include, among others, the exchange of delegations between those ministries, development of Mozambique students and cadres in GDR schools, and cultural and scientific exchange between the two countries. The plan also foresees the continuation of the work being done in Mozambique by lecturers, scientists, and advisers of the GDR.

This program of cultural and scientific cooperation was signed for the Mozambique Government by Dr (Joao Raposo Beirao), national director for the formation of education cadres, and by (Victor Falk), counselor of the GDR Embassy in Mozambique. Director (Raposo Beirao) referred to the difficult times in which the working plan was being signed. Times are difficult because the two countries and peoples are located on the border of two worlds — the liberated zone of humanity and the zone of imperialist aggression. This aggression worries the two peoples.

[Begin recording] [(Beirao)] In the specific case of the GDR we know too well how the deployment of missiles in Western Europe worries the German people. The prospects are in fact worrisome not only for the whole of Europe, but for the GDR in particular and the German people, who are right on the border with imperialism. In our case, in the People's Republic of Mozambique we are also in one of the dangerous zones in which imperialist aggression has become more evident. In our zone we have the direct guardian of imperialism — the republic of apartheid, the aparthied regime, the Republic of South Africa. For this reason, despite our current concern with the deployment of missiles, the fact is that politically and militarily we face a similar situation. [end recording]

That was (Joao Raposo Beirao), national director for the formation of education cadres. According to Director (Beirao), and despite imperialist aggression, Mozambique and the GDR follow the path of peace, which is evident from the signing of these cooperation plans in a very peaceful area.

[Begin recording] [(Beirao)] As a matter of fact, when we work for the development of culture, science, and technology we are, after all, seeking to create the conditions for the establishment of a regime of peace throughout the world, particularly in our countries. [end recording]

Director (Raposo Beirao) also noted that cooperation between Mozambique and the GDR in this field will not only contribute to the development of the two countries and their peoples, but will also enrich the cultural heritage of all humanity. This cooperation will strengthen the building of socialism in the two countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hails Relations With GDR

MB0913 48 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Daniel Mbanze, the deputy foreign minister, expressed satisfaction with the fruitful development of relations of friendship and cooperation between our country and the GDR. Daniel Mbanze was speaking at a dinner yesterday in honor of the outgoing GDR ambassador in Maputo, Johannes Vogel, who has completed his second tour of duty in Mozambique. The East German diplomat spoke on the relations of friendship between his country and Mozambique, and expressed gratitude for the support rendered to him by the Frelimo Party and government during his two diplomatic postings to the People's Republic of Mozambique.

SRV Agriculture Official Arrives on Visit

MB0913 06 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] (Tran Khai), SRV deputy minister of agriculture, stressed yesterday the favorable possibilities of cooperation in the field of agriculture between his country and Mozambique. (Tran Khai) was speaking soon after his arrival in Maputo on an official visit to our country at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture. At the same time, the SRV deputy minister of agriculture expressed the admiration of the Vietnamese people for the Mozambique people who, after the victory in the struggle of

national liberation against colonialism, are today in the front line of the fight against apartheid. The Vietnamese official was received by Gaspar Zimba, secretary of state for cashew nuts, at the Maputo airport. Gaspar Zimba noted this visit is one means of strengthening and expanding the current relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of agriculture.

France, EEC Offer Aid to Drought Victims

MB110618 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] France has offered Mozambique nearly 4,000 tons of wheat to support drought victims in Inhambane and Gaza Provinces. A representative of the French Embassy in Maputo said that the offer comes in the wake of a tour by representatives of the EEC countries to drought-affected areas in Gaza Province. The French diplomat said that the EEC is also prepared to offer medical and food aid to Mozambique. Meanwhile, in Beira port, 12,000 tons of wheat offered by the EEC is being unloaded, and another 23,000 tons is expected in Maputo within days. The ship unloading at Beira will afterward head for Nacala in northern Mozambique to unload another 4,000 tons.

Party Central Committee Departments Reorganized

MB110616 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The apparatus of the Frelimo Party Central Committee will now have eight departments; namely, economy, defense, mass democratic organizations, training and documentation, information and propaganda, foreign relations, organization, and administration and finance. At the level of provincial committees, there will be departments of economy, defense, organization, and mobilization and propaganda. At the level of district committees the last two departments will become a single department, the department of organization, mobilization, and propaganda. This measure is aimed at adapting the party apparatus to the present realities.

NAMIBIA

AFP Reports Further Nujoma Remarks on Mercenaries

AB091035 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Harare, Dec 9 (AFP) — Namibian nationalist leader Sam Nujoma charged here that foreign mercenaries were operating in the feared South African "Koevoet" (Crowbar) anti-insurgency police unit against his SWAPO guerrillas.

Mr Nujoma, speaking to reporters as he left Harare yesterday for Zambia after talks with Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, said Koevoet members included British, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American mercenaries.

UNITA rebels from the Angolan anti-government movement led by Jonas Savimbi had also been integrated into the special police unit, said Mr Nujoma, who is president of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) fighting against South Africa's continued rule in Namibia in defiance of the United Nations.

He accused Koevoet of killing Namibian "intellectuals" out of a belief that they were responsible for resistance to South African control.

According to reports from Windhoek, the Koevoet unit comes directly under the control of South African police headquarters in Pretoria and is led by white officers, although an estimated three-quarters of its 2,000 men are black Namibians.

The unit's activities have come under public scrutiny through a series of court cases in the past three months in which Koevoet men were found to have committed murder, rape, armed robbery and to have beaten civilians to death in detention.

SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Minister Returns From W. European Tour

MB100756 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, arrived back at Jan Smuts Airport in the early hours of this morning after spending the past few weeks on a visit to several European countries. During his trip he held talks with government officials in Portugal, Spain, West Germany, Britain, and the United States [as heard], and he also traveled to Rome where he conferred with the American assistant secretary of state for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker. Mr Botha paid two visits to Portugal.

Before leaving Lisbon to return home, he said he believed the Portuguese Government was keen to play a greater role in southern Africa in an attempt to relieve tension in the area, especially in Mozambique. Nevertheless, reports that diplomatic attempts were being made to arrange top-level talks between South Africa and Mozambique were based on speculation.

Calls Summit Reports 'Speculation'

MB091705 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says reports that diplomatic efforts are in progress to bring about top-level negotiations between South Africa and Mozambique are based on speculation.

Mr Botha, who was speaking to newsmen at Lisbon airport before leaving for Johannesburg, said he would not say that a summit meeting between South Africa and Mozambique was in the offing, because he wanted to respect the confidentiality of the situation. South Africa was not engaged in any secret actions. Mr Botha said that South Africa had always been in favor of discussion with its neighbors, if they would prevent their countries from being used for terrorism and subversion.

To Present Namibia Proposals

MB110602 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.F. Botha, says that after his talks in Europe he will put concrete proposals on the future of South-West Africa to the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha. In a newspaper interview after his return to South Africa, Mr Botha said that the proposals were the result of talks he held with the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker. He declined to elaborate on the proposals, but said that the American position remained that the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola was an essential precondition for a settlement in South-West Africa. During the interview Mr Botha would not comment on France's withdrawal from the activities of the Western Contact Group on South-West Africa nor would he deny the possibility of a meeting between Mr P.W. Botha and President Samora Machel of Mozambique. Mr Botha said that in Lisbon he had discussed action by South Africa, Portugal, and the United States to promote stability in Mozambique. He said that South Africa was willing to assist, provided that Mozambique stopped allowing terrorist activity against South Africa from Mozambican territory.

Further on Interview

MB111109 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 11 Dec 83 p 2

[By Jean le May, political correspondent]

[Text] No settlement could take place in Namibia before there was peace in Angola, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, told the *SUNDAY EXPRESS* yesterday.

Speaking after his return from a two-week diplomatic trip to Europe, Mr Botha said there were "more possibilities" for a Namibian settlement than before but "this should be balanced against the odds."

"The odds against settlement are largely related to the civil war in Angola, SWAPO and the presence of the Cubans in Angola," he said.

"Irrespective of what settlement is proposed in Namibia, nothing can be achieved until there is peace in Angola itself. "Moreover, a very important part of the settlement is that SWAPO must be monitored by UN forces — the Contact Group agreed on this — but the question remains: Who will do the monitoring?

"I can't see how the UN will go in on this basis — the UN is not a combat force. There are those who say that what is going on in Angola has nothing to do with the Namibian settlement," he said.

"I emphatically disagree. There are events taking place in Angola which will make it impossible for any settlement plan to work."

Mr Botha added: "In terms of the settlement there are supposed to be full and free elections in Namibia. But at the same time South African troops are supposed to be reduced and restricted to two bases and also subject to monitoring.

"But there will still be 30,000 Cubans just north of the Angolan border. Nobody can claim that there will be full and free elections under those circumstances."

Mr Botha said before leaving Lisbon for South Africa on Friday night that South Africa had always favoured talks at the highest possible level with its African neighbours. He said he had held "very extensive discussions" on the situation in Angola, Mozambique and Namibia.

He declined to confirm or deny reports that Portugal was acting as a go-between in trying to bring about a meeting between South Africa and Mozambique in a bid to defuse tensions in the area. "I don't conduct international relations in public," he said.

However, when asked about South Africa's attitude to the possibility of a summit between the Prime Minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and President Samora Machel of Mozambique, the Minister replied: "My government has always been in favour of discussion at the highest possible level — I believe that is the area where solutions are bound to be found."

Pressed on the possibility of an early meeting between Mr P.W. Botha and President Machel, Mr Botha said he wanted to respect "the confidentiality of the situation."

Foreign Affairs, Cooperation Departments Changed

MB091150 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, will in future have the title of minister of foreign affairs. In terms of a notice in the *GOVERNMENT GAZETTE*, the designation information has also been dropped from the title of the deputy minister, Mr Louis Nel. In addition, the name of Mr Botha's department has reverted to Department of Foreign Affairs. It has also been announced in Pretoria that the Department of Cooperation and Development has been restructured as a result of additional responsibilities. The director general, Mr (G. van der Wal), says in a statement that the department has been divided into two components, namely, administration and development, providing for two deputy directors general and six chief directorates.

'Top Spies' Involved in Seychelles Plot Disclosed

MB111057 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 11 Dec 83 p 3

[By Mike Cadman and Liz van den Nieuwenhof]

[Excerpts] Some of South Africa's top spies were behind the investigations which exposed the men behind the latest Seychelles coup plot. Since the South African government announcement last Friday that five men had been detained for questioning in connection with a plot to overthrow the Seychelles government it has emerged that:

Former security policeman and security police spy, Mr Paul Asmussen, played a major role in the investigation.

Mr Gerard Ludi, the only South African spy known to have infiltrated the Communist Party, hires Mr Asmussen from time to time. Mr Ludi runs a security company, and Mr Asmussen was working for him when he reported the Seychelles affair to the security police.

Mr Asmussen has close ties with South African 'superspy' Major Craig Williamson who is the godfather to Mr Asmussen's children.

Mr Asmussen, who as the treasurer of the Security Forces Support Committee (which was formed in May last year and supports the security police) consults regularly with Major Williamson on security matters.

Mr Asmussen also has links with former spy Mr Karl Edwards who, with Major Williamson, infiltrated that National Union of South African Students and the Geneva-based International University Exchange Fund.

Mr Ludi said that about a year ago Mr Asmussen, who had worked for his company on a freelance basis, had been approached by Mr Ian Withers — a private detective based in Belfast — in connection with surveillance on people with Seychelles connections.

Mr Withers is known as an expert in electronic bugging and allegedly bugged a hotel room where Seychellois exiles who form the Mouvemont Pour la Resistance [MPR] were plotting the overthrow of Mr Rene's government last year. The information Mr Withers allegedly obtained crushed the plot.

He is also believed to keep close tabs on the MPR, which supports former president Mr James Mancham and has consistently plotted to overthrow President Rene's government.

"When Mr Withers first made contact with us it was supposedly in connection with keeping tabs on some people for an American group with financial interests in the Seychelles," Mr Ludi said.

Mr Ludi said Mr Asmussen became suspicious about the motives of Mr Withers and Mr Williamson and spoke to the security police. Mr Ludi said that Mr Asmussen had asked for a clarification of the men's motives after he had become suspicious.

"We had a round-table conference with the security police, and they were quite happy if we continued with the case. They also engaged us to investigate certain aspects, mostly those of an international nature.

"For quite some time it was rather quiet and Mr Withers occasionally contacted Mr Asmussen, but usually the information conveyed was irrelevant."

Mr Ludi said that a few months ago rumours were picked up that a new coup was being funded and that "SAS types" were being recruited.

Mr Withers then informed them that he would send Mr Kenneth Williamson out to South Africa.

"He arrived two weeks ago and we fetched him from the airport and took him to the Kyalami Ranch, outside Johannesburg," said Mr Ludi.

"We smelt a rat because Mr Williamson and Mr Withers were into dirty stuff like body snatching...the very last people the Seychelles government would employ."

Mr Ludi said that they wanted no part of it if another government was involved and said that the security police would be keen to liaise in the matter and to receive information on the proposed coup.

But Mr Williamson refused to meet with the authorities.

General Comments on Role of Army in Country

MB091857 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Janie Geldenhuys, says the role of the Army is to protect the climate for political change so that change can take place at the direction of South Africans and not through external forces. Gen Geldenhuys, speaking at the passing out parade of nearly 1,500 junior officers of the infantry school at Oudtshoorn, said the Army's role is not to take part in politics but to protect the country.

Police Disclose Arrest of ANC Member in Soweto

MB091757 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Police headquarters in Pretoria have disclosed that a well known and trained ANC terrorist has been arrested by the police in Soweto. In the announcement it was also disclosed that earlier in the week while the police were conducting investigations on a house in Eldorado Park, outside Johannesburg, shots were fired from the house. The police returned the fire, injuring a Colored woman, and took a man into custody. Ammunition and arms were also confiscated. The arrested ANC terrorist was in possession of limpet mines, hand grenades, and explosives of Russian origin. The investigation continues.

Commissioner Says ANC Violence Campaign Thwarted

MB100559 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee, says the police have been able to thwart a campaign of violence planned by the ANC for this week. Speaking in Pretoria, Gen Coetzee said that the arrest of 10 people in connection with an incident in Pietermaritzburg in October and the arrest in Soweto on Tuesday last week of an ANC saboteur would result in a number of sensational trials early next year. He said that these arrests had disrupted plans by the ANC for a campaign of

organized violence in the week before the Day of the Vow on Friday. Gen Coetzee said that the ANC traditionally planned acts of sabotage in South Africa for this time of year.

Although the ANC had been thwarted in many of its plans, it was, nevertheless, still necessary to warn people to be on their guard against possible acts of sabotage such as the limpet bomb blast in the Johannesburg Commissioner's Court last Wednesday and the blowing up of a railway line at Hamilton near Bloemfontein the following night. The ANC has publicly claimed responsibility for the explosion in the Commissioner's Court in which one person was injured but made no mention of the blast near Bloemfontein.

ANC Blames Pretoria for Maputo Explosion

MB091852 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The ANC of South Africa has appealed to the international community to double its efforts to aid Mozambique and other independent states in the region in the defense of their territorial integrity and sovereignty in view of the South African aggression. In a statement issued in Lusaka, the ANC blames Pretoria agents for the terrorist attempt in Maputo last Wednesday which wounded two South African refugees. The statement says that this latest terrorist act was carried out despite the recent acknowledgment by Magnus Malan, South African minister of defense, that the war of liberation of South Africa is being waged by people who live inside South Africa itself. The ANC appeals to the international community to help the southern African states protect the lives and property of their citizens and those who seek refuge from oppression.

ANC Issues Statement on Human Rights Day

EA102324 Da es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The African National Congress party of South Africa has called on the international community to condemn South Africa's campaign to deport the people of Magopa to the bantustans and deny them their South African citizenship. In a statement released today to mark Human Rights Day, the ANC said the action was a violation of human rights as provided for in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. The statement said the United States, which advocates human rights, has been supporting the criminal activities of the Pretoria regime. The Pretoria regime, it said, has violated human rights by attacking neighboring frontline states and denying the Namibian people their right to independence.

ZAMBIA

Party Leader Expresses Confidence in SADCC

MB091104 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba has expressed confidence that in its data organization, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] will benefit all the people represented by it. Mr Mulemba pointed out that with the already existing good relations among members of the regional economic (?pact), all the countries represented would benefit from their independence through economic interdependence.

The party chief was speaking at a dinner for visiting Botswana Vice President Peter Mmusi at Hotel Intercontinental. Mr Mulemba said Zambia was determined to see that there existed continued unity in Africa. He said it was through this unity that independent African countries would be able to assist their colleagues like Namibia and South Africa, who were still suffering under the colonial yoke.

In reply, Mr Mmusi, who is also chairman of SADCC, said SADCC was an important institution which had to contribute a lot to the region through hard labor and resources. He said SADCC would continue to look at various development projects to enable its members to use their own raw materials and human resources. Mr Mmusi said SADCC would also concentrate on the food program in view of the prevailing drought. He explained that SADCC would not ask donors or developed countries for food but to assist in the program.

Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, Secretary of State for Defense and Security Grey Zulu, and National Commission for Development Planning Minister Dr Henry Meebelo were among the people present at the dinner.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Calls for Civil Servants' Political Stand

MB101022 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Civil servants have been called to come out into the open and declare their political allegiance. The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, made the call at a rally in Zaka yesterday and added that only the Army, police, judiciary, and prison service officers, can remain apolitical. He also urged the masses to plant trees and to stop plowing along river banks in order to avert soil erosion. Comrade Mugabe advised the people to be on the lookout for Pretoria-aided dissidents, who aim to destabilize Zimbabwe.

Earlier the prime minister addressed a rally at (Mphandawana) in [word indistinct], during which he assured the nation that maize supplies are still enough to meet the needs of the country. He said the government is aware that some milling companies are creating a false shortage of mealie [corn] meal in order to force the government to increase maize meal prices.

Comrade Mugabe urged the people to plant short-season crops, such as sorghum and millet, because the rains have come late this season.

Mugabe Says Meal Shortage Tantamount to Sabotage
MB101102 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0748 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Masvingo, Zimbabwe; Dec 10, SAPA — Zimbabwe's prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, has warned that the government would take over the milling companies if it found that they were responsible for the present maize flour shortage. Addressing a rally near Gutu, about 80 km from Masvingo, the prime minister said maize supplies in the country were still insufficient [as received] and that the shortage of meal was tantamount to sabotage. Millers who thought they would use the shortage as a tactic to force the government to approve price increases were mistaken, he said.

Political independence had been attained, Mr Mugabe added, but economic power was still in the hands of whites, some of whom were expressing their disapproval of the black government by deliberately using this advantage to discredit the country.

HERALD Hails French Pullout From Contact Group
AB091010 Paris AFP in English 0959 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Harare, Dec 9 (AFP) — Zimbabwe's semi-official press said today that France's temporary pullout from the Western "Contact Group" on Namibia was understandable given the negative role of the United States within the group. "The sooner the group disintegrates altogether the better," the national newspaper *THE HERALD* said in an editorial.

The Zimbabwe *HERALD*, without mentioning the United States by name, said the Contact Group's "failure is clearly due to some members trying to negotiate safeguards for their own interests in the region instead of adhering to the United Nations brief.

"France, keen to maintain good relations with independent African countries, has been vocal in rejecting the South African linkage policy," the newspaper said.

"Few of the most powerful nations on earth are interested in bringing the handful of racists down south to their senses. France's decision to refuse continued association with them is therefore very much understandable."